

Major on a collision course over EMU date

By ANATOLE KALETSKY AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE government appeared to be on a collision course with Germany and other members of the European Community yesterday after the Chancellor denounced any attempt to set a fixed date for monetary union as "an inherent absurdity".

John Major's attack came only hours after a declaration by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, that Germany was willing to proceed with the next stage of European Monetary Union on January 1, 1994. Jacques Delors, chairman of the European Commission, said in response that there was now "broad convergence" on EMU among all EC countries apart from Britain.

Herr Kohl's decision to support a fixed date for the next stage and M Delors' attempt to underline Britain's isolation came at a particularly embarrassing time for Mr Major, who was preparing to

deliver his annual address on monetary policy at the Mansion House banquet last night. Shortly before the Chancellor spoke, the pound fell below its exchange-rate mechanism central parity of DM2.95, partly as a result of scepticism in the markets about the government's attitude to full monetary union.

The Chancellor's speech dwelt at length on the advantages of membership of the exchange-rate mechanism, which Britain entered two weeks ago. But it also suggested implacable opposition to the kind of fixed timetable for EMU that all the other members seem to have agreed.

Mr Major said there was "an inherent absurdity in arguing about the length or date" of stage two in the three-step progress towards full monetary union. Stage two is the point when all members would irrevocably lock their exchange rates and set up a European central bank. Instead, governments should concentrate on practical steps to encourage convergence of economic performance and encourage the voluntary use of the European currency unit (ecu), the Chancellor said.

Until yesterday, the Treasury and Foreign Office had hoped that the Germans would tacitly endorse this approach, because the German Bundesbank had frequently expressed concern about monetary union before economic conditions were appropriate. Britain also believed that Spain and Denmark might back its scepticism about a rapid move to stage two, but both are now believed to have lined up with the other EC members.

M Delors said yesterday that a commitment to set a date would "disarm all the warnings and wipe out scepticism". He hoped the Rome summit at the end of this month would back Herr Kohl's proposal. Earlier, M Delors had sought 1993 as the entry year but was willing to delay as long as a firm date was fixed.

M Delors urged EC members to do their best to make the present phase of EMU a success. He added: "Experience has shown that political will, even if not enough to achieve the integration of economics, is nevertheless indispensable in getting member states to commit themselves to a result."

Mr Major's speech came as the public spending round neared completion with Treasury sources predicting that next year's total could break through the £200 billion barrier for the first time. For the fourth successive year the star chamber will not be necessary after the agreement on the schools budget. Details will be disclosed in the autumn statement next month.

Mr Major's words in the City were seen by Conservative MPs last night as a further signal that the general election will come later rather than sooner. His rejection of the idea of a six-month economic honeymoon triggered by ERM membership was seen as ruling out the prospect of an election as early as June next year.

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INSIDE

Parents face truancy fines

Parents of children who persistently play truant could be fined as much as £1,000 under legal powers being considered by the government.

The Home Office and the education department are considering measures to curb truancy as part of a package aimed at young offenders and designed to hold parents responsible for their children's behaviour. Page 3

Gulf pay boost

The 9,500 men and women of the 7th Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats, will be better off financially by being deployed to Saudi Arabia, it was announced by Tom King, the defence secretary. Page 2

Noise laws

The government's proposal to reduce noise levels will not be incorporated into a single white paper but will be "hooked" on to appropriate legislation and used for amendments to bills and local government circulars. Page 2
Leading article, page 15
Sound system, page 18

Abortion vote

Anti-abortionists failed last night in their final attempt to stop late abortions of babies found to be severely handicapped. In a free "conscience" vote, the Lords rejected 133-89 an amendment by Catholics and the pro-life lobby to tighten the conditions carried out after 24 weeks. Page 9

Emergency ends

President de Klerk has formally ended the four-year state of emergency in South Africa by lifting its provisions in Natal, the scene of chronic strife between rival black organizations. Page 12

Liver warning

Sir Donald Acheson, the government's chief medical officer, issued a warning that pregnant women should not eat liver because of a possible risk to their unborn babies of vitamin A poisoning. Page 22

Stewart stays

Micky Stewart, the England cricket team manager, disclosed that his contract has been extended for another two years. Page 36

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OS



Corporal Myles Sharman from Leicester (left) and John Shonfield from Reading, on patrol in Saudi Arabia where the first of the 7th Brigade's heavy equipment, including armoured personnel carriers, arrived by ship

Thatcher and Kinnock clash on education

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND DAVID TYTLER

THE growing political argument over education erupted in the Commons yesterday in an altercation between Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock in which she called the Labour leader a crypto-communist.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher was a crank after she repeated her support for a system of educational vouchers which would enable parents to buy a state or private education of their choice.

The clash came as John MacGregor, the education secretary, announced that all seven-year-olds will be given a standard national reading examination in a compulsory test agreed by him and Mrs Thatcher on Wednesday. Announcing the new slimmed-down testing in mathematics, English and science, Mr MacGregor said that the compulsory testing would concentrate on the basic skills of reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic, with some basic science. Teachers would also be expected to judge their pupils in the extra skills

demanded by the national curriculum. After a party conference season which saw the two party leaders place their conflicting education policies at the top of the agenda for the next election, the tensions between them boiled over in an exchange of insults rare even by their standards.

Mr Kinnock laughed out loud at the "crypto-communist" jibe, saying: "It is a long time since we had quite such a tantrum."

As Conservative MPs on the centre-right voiced satisfaction last night at confirmation that Mrs Thatcher remains strongly in favour of the vouchers idea, others repeated misgivings over the resurrection of a proposal they thought buried. Her remark that the existing city technology colleges, grant-maintained schools and money following the pupil represented virtually a voucher system was seen by the right as an attempt to make vouchers seem a natural development of policy.

Labour leadership sources were claiming outright success in what they admitted had been an attempt by Mr Kinnock to highlight divisions between Mrs Thatcher and Mr MacGregor over vouchers. Mrs Thatcher's reference to vouchers in her Bournemouth speech on page 22, col 5

Voucher clash, page 9
Boarder country, page 18
Political sketch, page 22

Pilots attacked in M1 report

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE long-awaited report into the Kegworth air disaster was published by the Department of Transport yesterday with 31 safety recommendations and partly accepts the remaining six.

In a separate report a team of doctors and scientists called for better passenger protection in the event of a crash, mainly through a new brace position which should be demonstrated before every flight.

The suggestion received a mixed reaction from airlines last night with some claiming that such advice would alarm passengers while others pre-

ferred video demonstrations. John Wolfe, British Midland's group managing director, said that video was the best way to get the message across, while British Airways said it already showed a video demonstration on planes fitted with screens.

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, said he was calling on Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary to form a commission to see whether sufficient priority was given to protecting passengers.

Kegworth reports, page 7

Arabs in disarray over US criticism

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, IN CAIRO

DEEP divisions over the Gulf conflict yesterday prevented the 21-member Arab League from reaching agreement at an emergency session called in Tunis, to respond to the violence this month when 21 Palestinians were killed in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem on the Temple Mount.

Hardline delegates, led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, left the meeting after an 11-country bloc comprising the six Gulf states, Egypt, its new found ally Syria, Lebanon, Djibouti and Somalia,

succeeded in suppressing condemnation of the United States. Other countries which walked out were Iraq, Yemen and Sudan.

Delegation sources quoted Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO's political department, as saying contemptuously as he led the walkout: "I congratulate you on your friendship with America."

The chairman, Mubarak Ali al-Khatir, the foreign minister of Qatar, then suspended the meeting and attempts were later under way in a hotel to try to find a compromise.

Margaret Thatcher yesterday gave tacit support to Edward Heath on the eve of his journey to Baghdad, where he hopes to persuade President Saddam Hussein to free some 70 sick and elderly British hostages on humanitarian grounds. Mrs Thatcher told a Labour questioner: "As far as Mr Heath is concerned he will make his own best judgements, and if he decides to go to Iraq and visit that or any other country, he would, of course, be given the normal courtesies."

Force favoured, page 12

German bankers uncover Stasi fraud

FROM IAN MURRAY, IN BONN

THE West German government may have been defrauded of up to DM3 billion (£1 billion) by a phoney export racket set up by the East German Stasi (secret police) to exploit currency union between the two countries. Details of the fraud are still coming to light as investigators struggle to sort out the extent of the operation.

Four people, three of them Stasi agents on special assignment, have been arrested so far. Police believe that many others must be involved and that the Stasi has been exploiting a loophole in the currency union treaty in order to build up sufficient funds to continue its undercover activities.

The fraud appears to have started some months ago and involved setting up bogus companies to export non-existent East German goods to the Soviet bloc. For the most part the orders were fictitious, although sometimes cut-price goods manufactured in South Korea, Singapore, Greece and even Norway were sent to real customers. None of the exports was actually made in East Germany.

The bogus companies claimed "transferable rubles" for meeting the orders. These were only available for goods made in East Germany, but the companies claimed on all their exports, wherever they were made, and the special rubles were credited to their account by the East German Foreign Trade Bank. Prior to currency union these rubles could be exchanged for 4.68 ostmarks each. After currency union on July 1, the exchange rate was DM 2.34, with the West German government responsible for the bank's dealings and therefore picking up the bill.

The fraud came to light after full reunification on October 3, when the East German bank came under scrutiny by bankers from the west. Fraud squad officers believe they are on the track of many others involved. However, they decided they had to start making arrests in case the Stasi network found out that the scheme had been discovered and then helped its agents to go into hiding.

So far only DM 500 million of fraud has been traced to the four, although Wolfgang Schomburg, state secretary in Berlin's justice department, believes the true figure is nearer DM3 billion.

Fortunes revived, page 10

THE TIMES on Saturday



Children on television

How much television is enough? Our weekly colour magazine for young readers asks children (not their parents) what they watch and how often

Review

A blaze of autumn

Autumn does not have to be shades of brown, as Nuneham Courtney (and other places in our guide to autumn colour) demonstrate

Very funny, poor chap



'Where is literary London? NW something?' Keith Waterhouse, true wit, talks about not being taken seriously and not, frankly, giving a damn

And he passed on none...



Mastermind chairman Magnus Magnusson chooses childhood (his own) as his specialist subject

Plus...

Liz Smith on designer hugging, how love conquered the KGB, Jan Morris on the resurgence of nationalism in Hawaii, a new biography of Gandhi, South Atlantic sailing, cooking grouse

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Britain base of international fiddle in violins

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of violins attributed falsely to master makers may be in circulation as part of a British-based international racket, the music community was warned yesterday.

Birmingham trading standards officer seized up to 20 violins, violas and cellos on October 4, that have been declared fakes by experts.

Methods of duping the dealers and the public have included "antiquing" brand new instruments, and giving factory-made instruments false labels, claiming they were from the hand of some Italian or French master.

The instruments seized include one described on its accompanying ticket as "Italian, by Patonzi of Cremona, 1926" and offered at £2,000 including VAT. Experts say that they have

never heard of a Patonzi, and that the true value should be £200.

Paul Galland, a trading standards officer, believes there are "hundreds of these fakes in this country alone, and that may be a conservative estimate". He does not know the extent of the problem abroad.

The racket is aimed at the cheaper end of the fine instrument market with prices in the range £2,000 to £3,000. One of those found in the recent raid had on its price label, "French, JP Colin, 1897, £2,200", while the inside label said "Lutherie artistique, Jean Raphisite Colin, anno 1899". Mr Galland said: "Our expert found it was a German factory-made instrument with a false label, worth £200 to £300."

His office has not yet brought any prosecutions. It is hoping that people who believe they may own a mis-

described instrument will come forward with further information. "There is a cell of people involved in faking and misdescribing in this country and they may have been getting away with it for years. We want to warn the public," Mr Galland said.

The Times reported in May that Graham Wells, Sotheby's expert, was initially fooled by fake Pedrazzini and Pollastri violins entering the market, until Mr Ted Stollar, his colleague at Phillips, called his attention to the deception. Christie's went to the police after selling a fake.

After making enquiries in the Birmingham area, the trading standards office took a number of instruments on approval, subsequently moving in. "Four of us went in, and then sent for further people when we realised how many had to be seized," said Mr Galland.



Paul Galland, standards officer: "hundreds of fakes"

البيان

Desert Rats' finances improve on move to Saudi Arabia

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE 9,500 men and women of the 7th Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats, will be better off financially by being deployed to Saudi Arabia, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday. The defence ministry said they would eat and sleep free of charge while serving in Saudi Arabia.

Married service personnel would also receive a 50 per cent rebate on the accommodation charge they paid for their living quarters in Germany.

A complex financial package has been worked out to ensure that none of the service personnel on operational duty in

the Gulf receives less pay at the end of each month. In a written parliamentary answer, Mr King said that the majority would receive more. Anyone shown to be receiving less would be compensated.

None of the soldiers, airmen and sailors will, however, be awarded "danger money". Mr King explained that the basic pay remained the same wherever soldiers were stationed. This included an "x-factor" of 10.5 per cent for men and 9.5 per cent for women, which recognised the disadvantages of service life, such as the requirement to operate in potentially dangerous conditions.

The 50 per cent rebate on accommodation charges for married men and

women deployed with the 7th Armoured Brigade from Germany ranges from 16p to 68p a day. Those who are single will have the whole charge waived while in Saudi Arabia.

A small number of servicemen, mainly warrant officers and majors, would have been worse off without the 50 per cent rebate.

One reason is that the local overseas allowance, paid to all servicemen abroad if living expenses are higher than in Britain, will be reduced for those deployed to the Gulf. Living in Saudi Arabia would be cheaper than in Germany, the defence ministry said.

In addition to the rebate, married

service personnel will receive a daily separation allowance of £2.84, irrespective of rank, once they have been away from home for more than 30 days.

This is the normal rate for any overseas posting. It is expected that all those sent to Saudi Arabia and other parts of the region will be on six month tours of duty.

None of the servicemen who took part in the Falklands conflict in 1982 was paid extra money. Since then, a small number of service personnel who have been sent to the South Atlantic on several short tours have been paid an extra £3.16p a day for working unsocial hours. Soldiers on similar short tours in

Northern Ireland, who have to work long hours, also receive the additional daily payment.

The announcement on pay and allowances was made as the Desert Rats continued to deploy to Saudi Arabia at the rate of six flights a day from Hamburg. Yesterday the British Airways jumbo jet which has been chartered by the defence ministry was used for the first time.

The first ship carrying equipment for the Desert Rats has also arrived in Saudi Arabia.

The 12,000-ton Danish-flagged Dana Cimbrica berthed at a north-eastern Saudi port after a three-week voyage

from Bremerhaven in Germany. The ship was met at the quayside by Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade, and Major General John Hopkins, deputy commanding general of the US 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The Desert Rats are to be located with the American marines.

The roll-on roll-off ferry was carrying armoured personnel carriers, eight-ton and four-ton trucks, tank transporters, armoured recovery vehicles and Land Rovers.

The first of the 120 Challenger tanks are due to arrive tomorrow on board the landing ship Sir Bedivere.

Civil service 'squandering talent of top graduates'

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's most exclusive trade unions, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, yesterday accused Whitehall mandarins of squandering talent in its recruitment of high flying "fast stream" graduates.

An alternative guide to careers in the civil service, published by the 10,500-strong union, whose members play a pivotal role in shaping and implementing government policy, says that bias in the corridors of power continues to favour white, male, Oxbridge students with arts degrees.

It advises graduates who believe money to be a main motivating force in a career not to consider a future with the civil service. The union grades cover top civil service permanent secretaries for lawyers, economists, policy advisors and other strategic planners.

Remuneration, the union says, will never finance the high life. "Compared to other high fliers, fast stream civil servants do rather badly." Furthermore, the gap between their salary and that of high flying university contemporaries gets wider as careers progress.

The guide reminds honours degree and other graduate applicants that there is more to life than money, "such as a satisfying and stimulating job". It adds, however: "Whilst the Foreign and Commonwealth Office looks good on the CV, it really does

not qualify you for much else."

Last year women comprised 47 per cent of applicants for administration, management and diplomatic service fast stream jobs but only 35 per cent of successful candidates. Only one person from the 385 ethnic minority applicants passed the selection procedure.

The union guide finds little evidence of overt discrimination but says bias is towards selection of those who are perceived to "fit in". It asks: "Will this bias inevitably continue to favour those with a preponderance of male hormones, white skin, Oxbridge arts degrees and carrying umbrellas?"

"We hope not. We feel that the process is increasingly geared towards those who are good at passing selection systems, the reasonable and intelligent people, with the emphasis on the 'out-going yet conformist team leader'." The guide adds: "A sizeable number of able, intelligent people are falling unnecessarily by the wayside. The Civil Service Commission must tackle this problem."

The union says: "Experiences vary from life in a minister's private office where an individual will acquire talents in the management of thinly concealed chaos, to the department of health, which offers the 'opportunity to work in Alexander Fleming House, a 1960s constructivist nightmare'."



Animal rights activists protesting against the export of live animals for slaughter try to block the path of a P&O ferry entering Dover yesterday

Gas prices due to go up again

BRITAIN'S 17 million gas consumers will face a rise in bills for the second time this year from November 1. Prices will increase by between 3.3 and 3.7 per cent, giving a total rise of 11 per cent this year.

British Gas said the changes will add less than 4p to the daily cost of gas central heating in an average three-bedroom detached house. Standing charges will be unchanged.

James McKinnon, director general of Ofgas, said that the industry watchdog will examine the increase.

College adds year to its degrees

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR engineering school added a year to its degrees yesterday and said it might have to run five-year courses if changes under consideration for A-level mathematics are implemented.

Imperial College, London, will cease to offer bachelors degrees in engineering in 1992 because students can no longer match the knowledge of their counterparts in mainland Europe after three years. The first degree in all branches of engineering will be a four-

year masters course. Sir Eric Ash, college rector, said that concerns about standards in schools had played only a minor part in the college's decision, but he expressed alarm at new proposals to drop the study of calculus in order to broaden A-level mathematics courses. "As far as engineering is concerned, calculus is essential. If they really were to produce an A-level without it, we would be the talking about five years to match the Germans."

Sir Eric said that the college was not advocating a general switch to four-year degrees, although he hoped to see Imperial apply the changes to science courses eventually.

Plans for a new polytechnic to serve west London and the Thames Valley were announced yesterday. Subject to government approval, the institution will be a merger of Ealing College of Higher Education and Thames Valley college, in Slough. The London College of Music may be invited to join.

Housing market to pick up with 1991 price rises

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

RELIEF is in sight for the housing market in spite of a 2.9 per cent fall in prices in the third quarter of this year, the Nationwide Anglia Building Society said in a survey published yesterday.

Although it expects prices to be down by between 8 and 10 per cent by the end of the year, there should be a rise of at least 5 per cent next year. That view is supported by Black Horse Relocation, a subsidiary of Lloyds bank, which suggests that prices will increase by between 5 and 10 per cent a year in the South in 1991 and 1992, and by half that amount in the North.

Nationwide Anglia argues that Britain's entry to the European exchange-rate mechanism, which has triggered a cut in interest rates, should put a floor under house prices. Any further cuts are likely to start a recovery in the housing market that would start with more sales and be followed by modest price rises.

The effect of lower mortgage rates is likely to be reinforced by the lower ratio of earnings to house prices, which is regarded as an accurate guide to the health of the market. The figure now stands at an estimated 3.88 compared with a peak of 4.65 in the second quarter of last year, according to Nationwide Anglia. In the past, a figure below four has indicated a balance that allows people to buy and sell.

At the end of last month house prices were in real terms 18 to 19 per cent lower than a year ago, but the third quarter of this year "may have been the bottom of the current cycle".

In the last quarter, only

Car crash kills three policemen

Three detectives were killed yesterday when their police car was involved in a head-on crash with a lorry on the A40 near Sunnybridge, Powys, mid Wales.

Another suffered serious head injuries and was taken to hospital in Brecon after being cut free by firemen. The four are members of the Dyfed-Powys force. The lorry driver was uninjured.

It was the second fatal accident involving a police vehicle in the county within 24 hours. On Wednesday, David Evans, aged 43, a quantity surveyor from Kerry, Newtown, Powys, was killed when his Saab and a police driving school car crashed near Welshpool. Three policemen in the car are detained in hospital with serious injuries.

Parachutist in St Paul's

A man with a makeshift parachute made an indoor jump from the whispering gallery in St Paul's cathedral, central London, yesterday, landing in the crowded nave. The man, described as black haired and wearing dark clothing, apparently opened his parachute before jumping the 102 ft from the gallery. He hit some chairs on landing but was apparently unhurt. He and an accomplice then gathered up his canopy and sprinted from the church chased by officials. He is being sought by City of London police. Canon Christopher Hill said that the action was "stupid, dangerous and extremely irresponsible".

Deportation appeals fail

The delegating of deportation decisions from the Home Office to senior officers in the immigration service has been declared legal by five Law Lords, who dismissed two test case appeals.

Up to 500 immigrants now face deportation. Nigerian-born Shamsudeen Oladehinde, of Clapham, southwest London, and Julius Alexander, of Hackney, east London, had contested the policy introduced in 1988.

Law report, page 36

Abuse survey

A total of 1,812 children have been sexually abused by 186 organised paedophile rings in the last three years, according to a survey among 39 of Britain's 52 police forces. Conducted by BBC 2's *Public Eye* programme, to be broadcast tonight, the survey shows that there were 349 paedophiles operating in sex rings. Only five of the cases, however, involved allegations of sadistic or ritual abuse.

Bicycle chained

The bicycle might be banned from part of Cambridge city centre between 10am and 4pm after approval of a draft pedestrian-only scheme by the county council's transport committee yesterday. Cycles and cars will be prohibited in Sidney Street, St John's Street, Trinity Street and Market Street if the council approves the scheme next month. Students are expected to object during public consultation.

Stevens plea

Ulster Unionists yesterday called for the team led by John Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, to relinquish control of prosecutions arising from its investigation into collusion between the security forces and Loyalist paramilitaries.

Union man dies

Peter Burns, aged 54, an executive member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, died yesterday after a brief illness. A member of the Labour party national executive committee, he was the union's chief negotiator for government establishments.

Reading The Times appears on Thursdays at 10.30p. Contact 01825 72727. Carriers for 1990: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1991: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1992: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1993: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1994: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1995: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1996: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1997: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1998: 01825 72727. Carriers for 1999: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2000: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2001: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2002: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2003: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2004: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2005: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2006: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2007: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2008: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2009: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2010: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2011: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2012: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2013: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2014: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2015: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2016: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2017: 01825 72727. Carriers for 2018: 01825 72727. 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Call for reforms to end appointment of 'stereotype' judges

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL reform of the way judges are appointed, to rid the bench of the stereotype of "monochrome male middle-aged judges", was called for yesterday by Tony Holland, president of the Law Society.

Addressing 1,000 solicitors at the society's annual conference in Glasgow, Mr Holland said: "There is a growing concern that the system for appointment is not serving the purposes the public now rightly expects of our judiciary." If the system was not reformed, it would be "somewhere near 2030 before we can expect to see a judiciary equally balanced between men and women, and with an appropriate mix from ethnic minorities. Are we all supposed to wait patiently until then?"

Mr Holland rejected positive discrimination for female and black candidates for the judiciary but the system had to be examined to see where unwitting discrimination occurred. He suggested appointing High Court judges

from the circuit bench to create a tiered and more structured judicial career. He also suggested examining the role of a judicial appointments commission, to help the Lord Chancellor and his officials in their job of appointing judges.

The reason for the monochrome, male middle-aged judges in this country was not because of any improper prejudice by the Lord Chancellor in making appointments, he said. The answer lay in the present appointments system. That was "geared to selection from a pool of 1,000 or so barristers, most known to each other and to the existing judiciary".

When the pool is widened to include the 20,000 solicitors who could be eligible under the government's legal reforms now before Parliament, a "wholly different system of selection will surely be needed".

At present, Mr Holland said, appointment even as an assistant recorder depended overwhelmingly on references

from those already on the bench as well as from senior members of the Bar. With the High Court, no appointment was made without the agreement of the four senior judges who head the High Court division.

"Is it any wonder that these procedures produce a judiciary almost entirely in the image of its previous generation?" Mr Holland said there was a need for a review of the procedures for appointing judges, including the qualification, selection, training and promotion of all levels of the judiciary. The Law Society has started such a review and would be issuing proposals for change in the new year.

Mr Holland questioned whether judges drawn from such a narrow group were equipped to cope with the increasingly complex public policy choices that will fall to them. "Can an almost exclusively male judiciary be expected to carry public confidence when recognition of the right of women to an equal voice in public, business, social and family life is now almost universal?"

His concern had been heightened, he added, by judicial opposition to the government's reforms of the legal profession. "Neither the manner nor the tone of that opposition did the judiciary any credit." He was also concerned at the way proposals from the Lord Chancellor's civil justice review for a unified court structure was "struck down at birth by the opposition of the judiciary."

Fees 'capped to cut legal aid bill'

THE government was accused by the president of the Law Society yesterday of seeking to control the soaring legal aid bill by capping lawyers' fees (Frances Gibb writes).

Tony Holland told solicitors at the society's annual conference in Glasgow that lawyers were an easy target. It was "far easier to cap solicitors' and barristers' rates of legal aid pay, than to tackle all the underlying causes of the inexorable rise in legal aid spending".

He urged the government to join with the Law Society to control the rising cost of legal aid. "We are prepared to help to identify and tackle areas of inefficiency - including any which may be our profession's responsibility - and to commit the necessary resources on our side," Mr Holland said that the government should be committed to tackling factors

that were pushing costs up, such as procedural complexity, underfunding of the Crown Prosecution Service and delays in getting cases heard.

The president's call comes at a time when officials at the Lord Chancellor's department are engaged in a review of the legal aid scheme that could result in its biggest shake-up for 40 years. One proposal is that everyone should be allowed legal aid for personal injury claims, as long as they pay contributions.

Another is to restrict the availability of legal aid in divorce until couples have tried to resolve their disputes by conciliation. The department also intends to extend the use of fixed fees for criminal legal aid work in the courts.

Mr Holland said yesterday that this was being done without any commitment to remove "features outside our control which push costs up". In criminal courts these included unnecessary remands caused by the prosecution not being ready or by serving papers late; unnecessary adjournments for probation reports.

The Law Society is launching a review of legal expenses insurance schemes that could meet many people's need for legal help where legal aid is not available. Mr Holland emphasised, however, that legal expenses insurance was not the answer to problems over legal aid.



Holland: ministers must tackle cause of problems

Bail change urged to reduce inmates held on remand

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A REFORM of the Bail Act 1976 to cut the number of defendants remanded in custody by the courts will be called for today at Lord Justice Woolf's seminar on prisons under the criminal justice system.

There is growing support among penal groups for tightening the criteria that courts use when remanding defendants in custody. Concern also exists that about 40 per cent of remand prisoners in England and Wales, who are held in conditions generally regarded as the worst in the prison system, are ultimately acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence by the courts.

The problem of the high proportion of prisoners on remand was highlighted by the riots at Strangeways in April where nearly 700 of the 1,646 prisoners were on remand. Penal groups say that if these inmates had not been there, the prison, which was designed for 997 inmates, would not have been overcrowded.

The inconsistency between courts over whether or not a defendant should be granted bail is also causing concern. The 1976 act states that a defendant must not be given bail when there are substantial grounds for believing he or she is likely to abscond, commit an offence on bail or otherwise obstruct the course of justice. Courts, however, interpret these criteria differently. When Douglas Hurd was home secretary he acknowledged that there seemed to be no reason for the size of the divergence.

Options for amending the Bail Act to reduce the number of remands in custody will be put forward today by a senior official from the National

Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro). Paul Cavadino will propose an additional criterion for refusing bail: there must be a substantial likelihood that the defendant will receive a custodial sentence if convicted. An exception would be made if the defendant had already absconded on bail in connection with the offence. The bail decision would not bind the sentence in court one way or the other.

Mr Cavadino says remands in custody could be scrapped for defendants charged with non-imprisonable offences, again with the exception of those who had previously absconded while on bail for the offence.

He will also propose ending remands in custody purely to obtain a report; and suggest the introduction of stricter guidelines determining how likely a defendant is to abscond. He thinks that there should also be tighter criteria relating to whether a defendant is likely to commit further offences while on bail. The association also proposes that it should be made clear that being of fixed abode is not, on its own, ground for believing a defendant will abscond. Nacro thinks that curbs should be introduced on the use of sureties, so that courts would be required to consider bail first and then the financial resources of a defendant's family.

Mr Cavadino, whose proposals are likely to be included in a formal amendment tabled by the association to the criminal justice bill expected in the autumn, said the measures could cut substantially the number of people remanded in custody, unnecessarily.



Mary Miers, one of the report's authors, at Cambusnethan Priory, a building which has fallen victim to vandalism

Scottish castles abandoned to their fate

By JOHN YOUNG

THE plight of many of Scotland's most spectacular and romantic castles and country houses is highlighted in a new illustrated survey by Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE), described as the most sensational collection of decaying buildings ever published.

From the Borders to the Hebrides hundreds of country houses have been neglected and abandoned to the mercy of the elements, the report says. Some were deserted after wartime requisitioning, abandoned

after serious fire damage or crudely adapted for agricultural storage. Others have fallen prey to vandalism and systematic looting, and many have been written off as lost causes.

"Yet a large number could still be saved if the right forces could be motivated," the report says. "For a country fiercely proud of its heritage it is grim knowledge that so many of its historic houses are in danger."

The situation is in marked contrast with England and Wales, where it is now relatively rare to find an important country house abandoned

to decay, the report says. In Scotland, economic regeneration and increased prosperity, together with a growing appreciation of historic buildings as potential assets, offer renewed hope, but the increase in the number of houses which have been rescued is overshadowed by starker realities.

The most immediate threat is that most of the houses, dissociated from their original function, are empty or under used. A factor which contributed to many a rapid decline was the policy of deliberately removing the roof which, under Scottish law until

the middle of this century, was necessary in order to avoid having to continue to pay rates. But man, as well as nature, is also to blame. "All too often the major ingredient in a building's demise lies in the attitude of the owner."

The report says that the state of many of the 140 buildings illustrated in the survey is scandalous, adding that damage inflicted upon them is, in some instances, wilful.

Scotland's Endangered Houses. Save Britain's Heritage, 68 Battersea High Street, London, SW11 3HD; £12.95.

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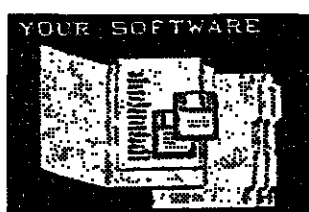
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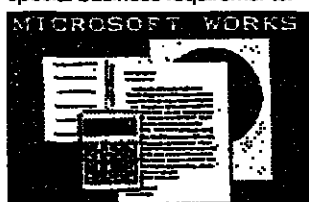
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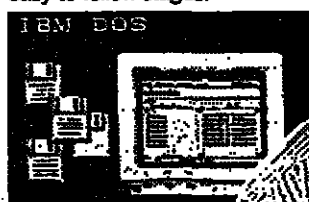
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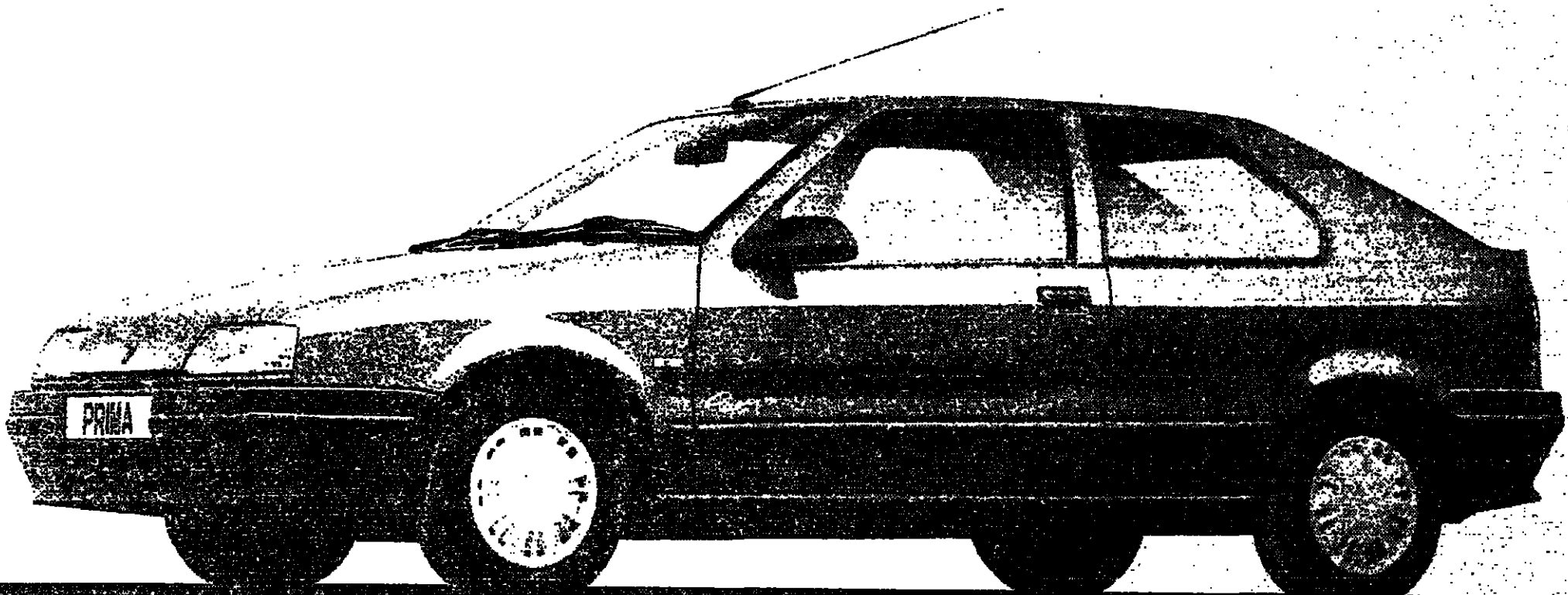
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Call for reforms to end appointment of 'stereotype' judges

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

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The reason for the monochrome, male middle-aged judges in this country was not because of any improper prejudice by the Lord Chancellor in making appointments, he said. The answer lay in the present appointments system. That was "geared to selection from a pool of 1,000 or so barristers, most known to each other and to the existing judiciary".

When the pool is widened to include the 20,000 solicitors who could be eligible under the government's legal reforms now before Parliament, a "wholly different system of selection will surely be needed".

At present, Mr Holland said, appointment even as an assistant recorder depended overwhelmingly on references

from those already on the bench as well as from senior members of the Bar. With the High Court, no appointment was made without the agreement of the four senior judges who head the High Court division.

"Is it any wonder that these procedures produce a judiciary almost entirely in the image of its previous generation?" Mr Holland said there was a need for a review of the procedures for appointing judges, including the qualification, selection, training and promotion of all levels of the judiciary. The Law Society has started such a review and would be issuing proposals for change in the new year.

Mr Holland questioned whether judges drawn from such a narrow group were equipped to cope with the increasingly complex public policy choices that will fall to them. "Can an almost exclusively male judiciary be expected to carry public confidence when recognition of the right of women to an equal voice in public, business, social and family life is now almost universal?"

His concern had been heightened, he added, by judicial opposition to the government's reforms of the legal profession. "Neither the manner nor the tone of that opposition did the judiciary any credit." He was also concerned at the way proposals from the Lord Chancellor's civil justice review for a unified court structure was "struck down at birth by the opposition of the judiciary."

Fees 'capped to cut legal aid bill'

THE government was accused by the president of the Law Society yesterday of seeking to control the soaring legal aid bill by capping lawyers' fees (Frances Gibb writes).

Tony Holland told solicitors at the society's annual conference in Glasgow that lawyers were an easy target. It was "far easier to cap solicitors' and barristers' rates of legal aid pay, than to tackle all the underlying causes of the inexorable rise in legal aid spending".

He urged the government to join with the Law Society to control the rising cost of legal aid. "We are prepared to help to identify and tackle areas of inefficiency - including any which may be our profession's responsibility - and to commit the necessary resources on our side," Mr Holland said that the government should be committed to tackling factors

that were pushing costs up, such as procedural complexity, underfunding of the Crown Prosecution Service and delays in getting cases heard.

The president's call comes at a time when officials at the Lord Chancellor's department are engaged in a review of the legal aid scheme that could result in its biggest shake-up for 40 years. One proposal is that everyone should be allowed legal aid for personal injury claims, as long as they pay contributions.

Another is to restrict the availability of legal aid in divorce until couples have tried to resolve their disputes by conciliation. The department also intends to extend the use of fixed fees for criminal legal aid work in the courts.

Mr Holland said yesterday that this was being done without any commitment to remove "features outside our control which push costs up". In criminal courts these included unnecessary remands caused by the prosecution not being ready or by serving papers late; unnecessary adjournments for probation reports.

The Law Society is launching a review of legal expenses insurance schemes that could meet many people's need for legal help where legal aid is not available. Mr Holland emphasised, however, that legal expenses insurance was not the answer to problems over legal aid.



Holland: ministers must tackle cause of problems

Bail change urged to reduce inmates held on remand

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A REFORM of the Bail Act 1976 to cut the number of defendants remanded in custody by the courts will be called for today at Lord Justice Woolf's seminar on prisons under the criminal justice system.

There is growing support among penal groups for tightening the criteria that courts use when remanding defendants in custody. Concern also exists that about 40 per cent of remand prisoners in England and Wales, who are held in conditions generally regarded as the worst in the prison system, are ultimately acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence by the courts.

The problem of the high proportion of prisoners on remand was highlighted by the riots at Strangeways in April where nearly 700 of the 1,646 prisoners were on remand. Penal groups say that if these inmates had not been there, the prison, which was designed for 997 inmates, would not have been overcrowded.

The inconsistency between courts over whether or not a defendant should be granted bail is also causing concern. The 1976 act states that a defendant must not be given bail when there are substantial grounds for believing he or she is likely to abscond, commit an offence on bail or otherwise obstruct the course of justice. Courts, however, interpret these criteria differently. When Douglas Hurd was home secretary he acknowledged that there seemed to be no reason for the size of the divergence.

Options for amending the Bail Act to reduce the number of remands in custody will be put forward today by a senior official from the National

Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro). Paul Cavadino will propose an additional criterion for refusing bail: there must be a substantial likelihood that the defendant will receive a custodial sentence if convicted. An exception would be made if the defendant had already absconded on bail in connection with the offence. The bail decision would not bind the sentence in court one way or the other.

Mr Cavadino says remands in custody could be scrapped for defendants charged with non-imprisonable offences, again with the exception of those who had previously absconded while on bail for the offence.

He will also propose ending remands in custody purely to obtain a report; and suggest the introduction of stricter guidelines determining how likely a defendant is to abscond. He thinks that there should also be tighter criteria relating to whether a defendant is likely to commit further offences while on bail.

The association also proposes that it should be made clear that being of fixed abode is not, on its own, ground for believing a defendant will abscond. Nacro thinks that curbs should be introduced on the use of sureties, so that courts would be required to consider bail first and then the financial resources of a defendant's family.

Mr Cavadino, whose proposals are likely to be included in a formal amendment tabled by the association to the criminal justice bill expected in the autumn, said the measures could cut substantially the number of people remanded in custody, unnecessarily.



Mary Miers, one of the report's authors, at Cambusnethan Priory, a building which has fallen victim to vandalism

Scottish castles abandoned to their fate

By JOHN YOUNG

THE plight of many of Scotland's most spectacular and romantic castles and country houses is highlighted in a new illustrated survey by Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE), described as the most sensational collection of decaying buildings ever published.

From the Borders to the Hebrides hundreds of country houses have been neglected and abandoned to the mercy of the elements, the report says. Some were deserted after wartime requisitioning, abandoned

after serious fire damage or crudely adapted for agricultural storage. Others have fallen prey to vandalism and systematic looting, and many have been written off as lost causes.

"Yet a large number could still be saved if the right forces could be motivated," the report says. "For a country fiercely proud of its heritage it is grim knowledge that so many of its historic houses are in danger."

The situation is in marked contrast with England and Wales, where it is now relatively rare to find an important country house abandoned

to decay, the report says. In Scotland, economic regeneration and increased prosperity, together with a growing appreciation of historic buildings as potential assets, offer renewed hope, but the increase in the number of houses which have been rescued is overshadowed by starker realities.

The most immediate threat is that most of the houses, dissociated from their original function, are empty or under used. A factor which contributed to many a rapid decline was the policy of deliberately removing the roof which, under Scottish law until

the middle of this century, was necessary in order to avoid having to continue to pay rates. But man, as well as nature, is also to blame. "All too often the major ingredient in a building's demise lies in the attitude of the owner."

The report says that the state of many of the 140 buildings illustrated in the survey is scandalous, adding that damage inflicted upon them is, in some instances, wilful.

Scotland's Endangered Houses. Save Britain's Heritage, 68 Battersea High Street, London, SW11 3HD; £12.95.

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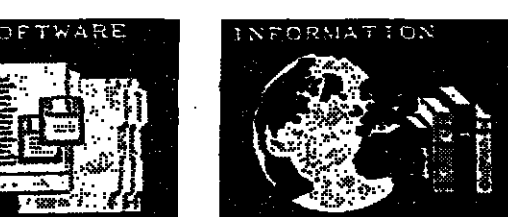
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Pilots' hasty action 'made M1 jet crash inevitable'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

PILOTS of the British Midland Boeing 737, which crashed on the M1 in January last year with the loss of 47 lives, suffered from a "fatal misconception" that actions they had taken "in haste" to deal with an in-flight emergency had been correct, according to the official report into the accident published yesterday.

By shutting down the right-hand engine when the problem lay in the left they made the crash inevitable, the air accident investigation branch says in its 152-page report. The pilots acted with a speed which was contrary to their training and the instructions in their operations manual, the report says.

"If they had taken more time to study the engine instruments it should have been apparent that the No. 2 engine indications were normal and that the No. 1 engine was behaving erratically. In the event both pilots reacted to the emergency before they had any positive evidence of which engine was operating abnormally. Their incorrect diagnosis of the problem must therefore be attributed to their too rapid reaction and not to any failure of the engine instrument system to display the correct indications."

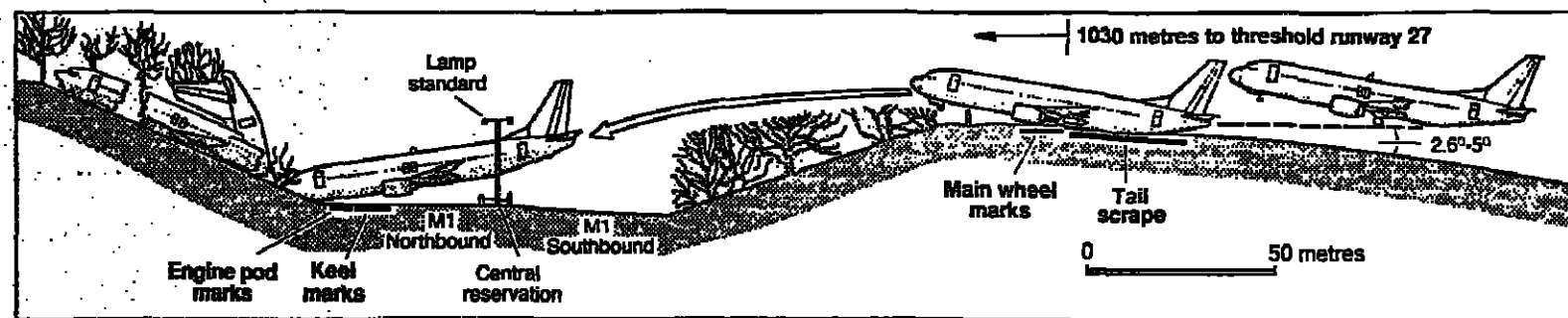
The report, which contains 31 safety recommendations, says that the cause of the accident was that the crew shut down the No. 2 engine after a fan blade had fractured in the No. 1 engine. They incorrectly responded to the emergency because a combination of heavy engine vibration, noise, shuddering and an associated smell of fire were outside their training and experience. They reacted to the initial engine

problem prematurely and in a way that was contrary to their training. They did not assimilate the indications on the engine instrument display before they throttled back the No. 2 engine.

As the No. 2 engine was throttled back the noise and shuddering associated with the No. 1 engine ceased, persuading them that they had correctly identified the defective engine. They were not told of the flames which had emanated from the No. 1 engine and which had been observed by many on board, including three cabin attendants in the aft cabin.

In a detailed examination of the flight of G-OBME which was heading for Belfast from Heathrow the inspectors describe how 20 miles south of East Midlands airport the crew noticed "moderate to severe vibration and a smell of fire". Captain Kevin Hunt took over control of the aircraft from his co-pilot, David McClelland, and disengaged the autopilot. When Mr McClelland was asked which engine was causing the trouble he said: "It's the left... it's the right one," and was told to throttle it back. Forty-three seconds after the first vibration had affected the doomed jet the commander ordered him to shut it down, an order which was delayed for nearly a minute but which resulted after two minutes and seven seconds from the start of the vibration to the fuel cock being closed.

Checks made by the investigators in the months after the accident showed that throughout the rest of the flight the vibration indicator of the left-hand engine continued to remain high although the vibration and



Flashback to disaster: the wrecked Boeing 737. The pilots reacted too rapidly to an emergency, the report says

the smoke in the cockpit disappeared. However, neither pilot noticed the continuing high vibration of the engine being shown by the instruments.

Captain Hunt, who is still confined to a wheelchair as a result of his injuries, flew the aircraft manually towards East Midlands airport. When he tried to apply additional power from the damaged but still running left-hand engine it failed and it was too late to start the still fully operational right-hand engine.

The aircraft broke into three sections as it hit an embankment near Kegworth just short of the runway. Passengers were thrown forward in their seats, many of

which collapsed through the floor and the luggage bins above their heads broke free from their mountings, showering them with debris.

The mystery of how the pilots came to shut down the wrong engine is still not fully explained in the report. "It has not been possible to determine why... (the co-pilot)... made the mistake of believing that the fault lay with the No. 2 engine," the report says. "When asked which engine was at fault he half formed the word 'left' before saying 'right'." His hesitation may have arisen from genuine difficulty in interpreting the readings on the engine instruments or it may have been that he observed the instruments only during the six-second period of relative stability between the second and third surges."

Later Captain Hunt said he thought the smoke in the cockpit indicated that the problem must be in the right-hand engine because that was where air from the air-conditioning unit came.

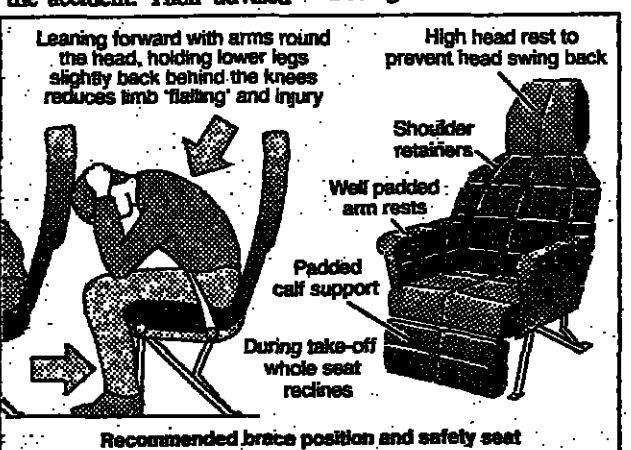
"Whilst this reasoning might have applied fairly well to other aircraft he had flown it was flawed because some of the conditioning air for the passenger cabin of the Boeing 737-400 comes from the No. 1 engine. It seems unlikely that in the short time before he took action his thoughts about the air-conditioning system could have had much influence on his decision.

"It is considered to be more likely that, believing the first officer had seen positive indications on the engine instruments, he provisionally accepted the first officer's assessment."

The report says that tests showed that the No. 1 engine vibration indicator was at the top of its scale within two seconds of the onset of vibration and remained there for about three minutes until that engine was throttled back for descent. "Yet it appears that the reading on this indicator was not noticed by either pilot and this indicates a weakness in training philosophy."

crash brace position offered "significant protection against head injury and concussion". This involved clamping the hands firmly on top of the head with elbows tucked outside knees. The head should rest against the structure in front and the legs positioned with the feet together, slightly behind the knees.

The position was worked out by a computer simulation, using evidence from the scene and from survivors' statements, to re-create the moment of impact of the Boeing 737.



New advice to passengers

By PAUL WILKINSON

CASUALTIES in the Kegworth aircraft crash could have been reduced if the passengers had used a more effective position to brace themselves for the impact, a report on the causes of the injuries sustained in the disaster says.

Instructions on what position to take in a crash are inadequate in many cases, it says. More detailed instructions should be given, possibly by video, and should take precedence over the usual lifebelt demonstration.

British Midland, owners of the crash jet, said last night that the bracing position recommended in the report was being implemented immediately. John Wolfe, group managing director, said: "New instruction cards are being produced and should be in place by mid-November."

The report was produced by a study group consisting of researchers from Nottingham university medical school, doctors from the four hospitals where the survivors were treated and H.W. Structures, the Midlands engineering consultants. The report, commissioned

by the Civil Aviation Authority, also makes a number of other safety recommendations which would radically affect the way in which passenger aircraft are designed and built. They include installing rear facing seats, strengthening aircraft floors, anchoring seats to the fuselage as well as the floor, eliminating or strengthening over-seat storage bins and redesigning seats to reduce impact injury.

The doctors make recommendations on improvements in the medical treatment of survivors after the accident. Their advised

Lockerbie jigsaw clue to bomb

AN AIR accident expert described yesterday how painstaking reconstruction of wreckage from the Lockerbie air crash uncovered a tiny piece of the bomb that blew up the aircraft, killing 270 people.

Michael Charles, principal inspector at the Air Accidents Investigation Branch, said that it was established on Christmas Day, 1988 that a bomb had brought down the plane four days earlier.

Mr Charles told the disaster enquiry in Dumfries that piecing together the fuselage wreckage showed the blast had occurred in the forward luggage hold of the Pan Am Boeing 747. Two containers showing evidence of blast damage were rebuilt and it was established that the explosion took place in one of them. He said a "buckled piece of skin" was found. "As it was prised open we found inside a piece of printed circuit board. This related to a type of radio cassette player which had been fitted with an explosive device."

The enquiry continues today.

Fourth game heads for draw after Kasparov fightback

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

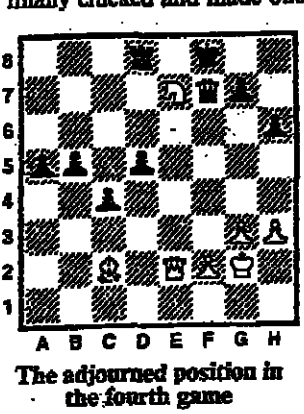
THE fourth game of the World Chess Championship in New York has been adjourned after 40 moves in a position where Kasparov, playing white, can force a draw with Karpov by perpetual check. Indeed, the most likely outcome is that they will agree to a draw without resuming.

The route to the drawn conclusion was, however, strewn with the most extraordinary complications and at one time Kasparov, faced with a massive material inferiority, was clinging on for dear life.

Until the 22nd move play in game 4 followed theoretical precedent. Even though Karpov thought for a record 53 minutes over his 19th move the position was still recognisable as chess book theory. The revelation was Karpov's 22nd move, a brilliant retreat of his bishop instead of recapturing a knight which had just been taken. Kasparov reacted with equal vigour. The world champion sacrificed every pawn he had on the queen-side and in the centre in the interests of trying

to blast a path directly through to Karpov's king. The most spectacular feature was that for a full nine moves Kasparov left a rook in the very vitals of the black camp, but positioned in such a way that it would have been extremely perilous for black to snatch at the bait. When Karpov did finally capture this rook with his bishop on the 32nd move the floodgates were opened for white's few remaining forces to come to grips with the black king.

On the 39th move with his clock flag hanging, Karpov finally cracked and made one



The adjourned position in the fourth game

defensive move too many. Kasparov seized his chance and proceeded to deliver checks with his knight which will rotate with clock-like precision from the g6 to e7 squares, creating a vice from which the black king can never escape. Kasparov sealed his 41st move which will certainly be 41 Ng6+.

Kasparov white; Karpov, black Ruy Lopez

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	22 Bxb4	Bx7
2 Nf3	Nc6	23 Rb6	Qxb4
3 Bb5	a6	24 Bb3	Qxd4
4 Bxa6	Nb8	25 Bc2	Ra8
5 0-0	Bc7	26 Rb6	Qb4
6 Re1	b5	27 g3	as
7 Bc2	0-0	28 Rb4	Qd4
8 a3	0-0	29 Qc2	Qd4
9 h3	Bc7	30 Bb3	Qc1+
10 d4	Rb8	31 Kg2	c4
11 Nbd2	Qb8	32 Bc2	Bb8
12 e4	Mf	33 Rb6	Rb8
13 Bc2	a2d4	34 Qa2	Kb8
14 Qd4	Nb4	35 Ng6+	Kb7
15 Bb1	c5	36 Qc2	Qg5
16 Q5	Nc7	37 Rf	Qd5
17 Rg3	S	38 Nf5+	Kb8
18 ex5	Nb6	39 Ng6	Q7
19 Ne4	Bd5	40 Nf7+	K8
20 Nf6+	Qd8		
21 Bc2	Qc2		Game adjourned

Running score:
Kasparov 1½ 1 ½ a 2
Karpov ½ 0 ½ a 1

Multiple rapist hunted

Police in Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire have joined forces in a hunt for a multiple rapist (Craig Seton writes).

Detectives said yesterday that the victims were professional women living alone who were raped in their homes in the early hours. The first known attack was in Milton Keynes in June last year. The second was in Reading in January and a third in Leamington Spa. Police believe that other women might not have reported attacks.

Detectives are certain that the same man carried out the rapes. They suspect that he watches his intended victims and attacks when they are alone. The rapist is described as black or of mixed race, aged between 20 and 30, with a spotty complexion and a deep voice.

Book price ruling

The publishers of the Booker Prize-winning novel and the other short-listed books was granted a court order yesterday banning their sale at discount prices in Scotland. The publishers took the Pentos Retailing Group to the Court of Session in Edinburgh. The move prevents Pentos selling the novels at less than the prices set under the net book agreement and follows similar court action in England.

Pekinese theft

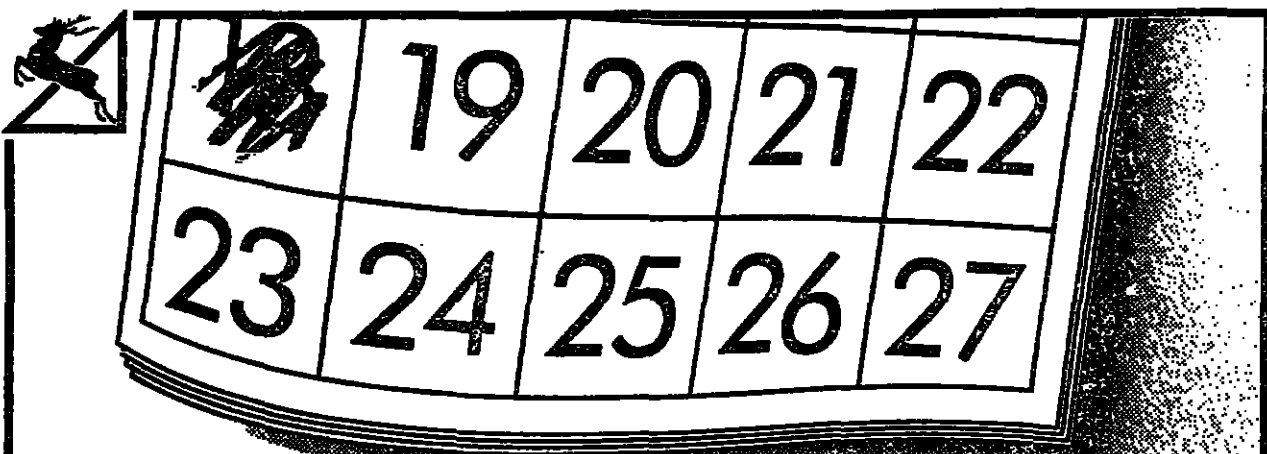
Malcolm Watson, a dog breeder and international show judge, was found guilty yesterday of stealing a £1,000 prize Pekinese puppy from the garden of its owner. The theft came to light four years later after he sold it to another breeder under a false name. Chelmsford Crown Court was told. Watson, aged 37, of Benfleet, Essex, who denied stealing the animal, was fined £200.

Rude awakening

Robert Coombs, aged 43, a council water station fitter, of Bournemouth, who fell and injured his back after standing on a sleeping cat in long grass in 1985, was awarded £59,054 damages in the High Court yesterday. The judge found Christchurch borough council to blame as Mr Coombs had warned it about the grass.

Safeway fined

Safeway was fined a total of £4,500 by Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday for overcharging at three stores in the city. Safeway admitted three separate charges of overcharging at branches in August last year. Not guilty pleas to offences at two other branches were accepted.



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Sophie. She enjoyed meeting Rami the Elephant at the Circus. Sophie says, "She must have liked me 'cause when I left she gave me a big wet kiss."

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Sophie's Striped Fleece Back Cardigan £11.99. PEOPLE by BHS

Cabinet big spenders inflict defeat on the Treasury hard men

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

Kenneth Clarke, Chris Patten and Tony King appear to be the winners in the annual Whitehall spending steepchase.

A steward's enquiry could still be held when the official figures are revealed in the Treasury's autumn statement next month. But the signs as the most hard-fought contest for a decade came to a close yesterday were that the health, environment and defence secretaries had the most cause for satisfaction.

For once the hard-faced men of the Treasury felt that they were labouring under an impossible handicap. When the outcome is disclosed in November it may well be that for the first time the nation's spending bill will exceed £200 billion next year. Norman Lamont, Treasury chief secretary, had a nominal planning target before him for 1991-2 of £192.3 billion. Even before he

called in a single official or minister to start the haggling, he had effectively given away more than £3 billion.

That automatic overrun was made up of £4 billion extra to cover the impact of the higher than expected inflation rate on index-linked social security benefits (£2.5 billion), which the government is committed to pay from next April, and other demand-led programmes.

The political cost of trying to defuse public anger over the community charge accounted for a further £2.75 billion. That was conceded to Mr Patten, in July. Other commitments agreed since the £192.3 billion figure was set last autumn, including health pay review awards, the war widows' pension concession and the first tranche of extra spending on the Jubilee Tube line extension, added £2 billion.

Before a single plea was made to him by a spending minister,

the headline figure in front of the chief secretary was about £200.5 billion. At hand was the contingency reserve that the Treasury always writes into the planning total. For 1991-2 that figure is £5 billion. How much of that Mr Lamont decides to use will determine how far above, or perhaps just below, the £200 billion figure he goes. In last year's white paper, he retained a contingency reserve of £3 billion for the coming year.

The settlement by John MacGregor, the education secretary, of his budget late on Wednesday left the star chamber, which would have been headed by Sir Geoffrey Howe, without any work to do for the fourth year in succession.

The prime minister's unprecedented intervention with a strongly worded injunction to her ministers just before the Tory conference seems to have concentrated minds. Her warning

that they could expect little or nothing by going over Mr Lamont's head did the trick.

In trying to claw back some lost ground, the Treasury targeted defence and training as two areas for cuts. Mr King's apparent success, helped by President Saddam Hussein, in restricting the so-called peace dividend to a figure well below the Treasury's objective of £2 billion clearly puts him among the winners.

Mr Clarke has Robin Cook, his Labour shadow, to thank for putting him in the winner's enclosure. As Mr Cook's leak from a health department negotiating paper showed last week, the health secretary appears to have won more than £2 billion of his bid for £2.7 billion extra, the third year in succession that he has broken the £2 billion barrier. His victory was crowned when Margaret Thatcher then appointed him to the star chamber where he would have sat in

judgment on his colleagues.

Mr Patten's windfall was guaranteed last spring when Tory party jitters over the poll tax reached a critical level. It was no surprise when Mr Patten told the Commons in July that he had secured the biggest ever cash increase in local government spending; and no surprise either when he settled his housing, green and inner city budget with Mr Lamont quite speedily.

The autumn statement will disclose which other ministers deserve the plaudits.

No one has fought harder, and in the end more publicly, than Mr MacGregor. As many as seven face-to-face encounters with Mr Lamont have ended with a far from clearcut outcome. Speculation that Mr MacGregor has won most of what he was seeking are not borne out by a close reading of the history of his negotiation.

For some time the education department was happy to let the

world believe that Mr MacGregor was pursuing an 18.3 per cent increase in his £5.8 billion budget planned for next year. That comes out at a £1.3 billion increase. But last weekend expectations were gently lowered to nearer £1 billion.

This week, as Mr MacGregor's struggle with Mr Lamont came to a head there were further downward revisions. He appears to have secured between £500 million and £700 million extra, a rise of 7 per cent to 10 per cent. It may not be far from the figure he wanted.

As for the remainder, Tony Newton, the social security secretary and guardian of a planned £56.2 billion purse. Whitehall's biggest, will probably have some sweeteners to announce but looks likely yet again to be forced to swallow a freeze in child benefit.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, inherited a weak hand from Sir Norman Fowler,

his predecessor. The Treasury targeted the training budget for more cuts, arguing that employers should bear a greater share of the vocational burden. His settlement will be a test of how much clout one of the cabinet's rising stars has been able to wield. As for Mr Howard, the test for all ministers will be a comparison between their planned budgets for next year and the final outcomes announced in the autumn statement.

Treasury ministers deny that the fact that the star chamber is again redundant shows that their dire warnings about this year's round are all so much hot air. They believe that the very threat of its operation has proved a vital discipline in helping to balance the books. "It may not have done any work, but we would hate to see it go", a Treasury insider said yesterday.

Thatcher and Kinnock in clash over vouchers

By JOHN WINDER

A BITTER Commons row over education vouchers yesterday led to Neil Kinnock calling the prime minister a crank while she countered with a charge that he was a crypto-communist.

The storm blew up from an unsuccessful attempt by the leader of the Opposition to persuade Margaret Thatcher to clarify her position on vouchers for schooling, and ended with him commenting that it was a long time since the Commons had heard quite such a prime ministerial tantrum.

Mr Kinnock opened with a brief question arising from Mrs Thatcher's speech at Bournemouth when she welcomed the introduction of

vouchers for training and hoped that it would not be the last voucher scheme, going on at once to speak of the role of independent schools. "Will the prime minister make it clear to everyone today that she is completely against vouchers for schooling?"

Mrs Thatcher replied that vouchers for training were a "very good thing" that increased choice.

"In education we are attempting to increase choice, with city technology colleges, grant-maintained schools and also with open rolls. Of course, local authorities are against choice. They want centralised controls."

Mr Kinnock accused her of trying to evade the question and said that it was obvious that she was in favour of vouchers for schooling.

"She is a crank. Is it not obvious to her that every single examination ever undertaken into vouchers, including the one done by her friend, Lord Joseph [a former education minister] has concluded that vouchers are an expensive, bureaucratic and divisive system?"

Mrs Thatcher: "Nonsense. Nonsense. They are one method and only one method of what we are already operating. The money follows the pupil. That is a form of giving extra choice. Giving the voucher to the parent for the pupil. Of course Mr Kinnock hates it. He wants total central control of education through socialist local authorities which hold money back from locally managed schools."

"Of course he hates choice. Of course he hates higher standards. Of course he hates opportunity. He is socialist - or crypto-communist."

Mr Kinnock: "It is a long time since we had quite such a tantrum from the prime minister at question time. Everybody knows that the education system is more centralised than it has ever been."

Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, asked Mrs Thatcher why she disagreed with the view of the education secretary, John MacGregor, that a voucher system would be an unnecessary distraction.

Mrs Thatcher reported that Mr MacGregor, who was sitting next to her, totally disagreed with Mr Ashdown's interpretation. The city colleges and grant-maintained schools were an open regime, a form of allowing choice to the parent, and virtually a voucher system.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow leader of the House, complained later to the Speaker about the use of the phrase "crypto-communist". He asked if in future it would be in order for Labour MPs to refer to the prime minister as a crypto-fascist.

The Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, said that he hoped all MPs would treat each other with respect.



Michael Partillo, junior environment minister (left), with Barry Curnow, president of the personnel management institute, at the launch in London yesterday of a joint institute-government scheme to promote training and employment in the inner cities

SAFETY

Pesticide report criticised

A GOVERNMENT minister yesterday criticised the report by the British Medical Association on the safety of pesticides and said that some of its authors were not medically qualified (Peter Mulligan writes).

David Maclean, the junior agriculture minister, told MPs that the committee members, whose report had expressed doubts on assurances about pesticide safety, were not all academic experts.

He said that some were from Friends of the Earth, the environmental pressure group, and another was "one of Mr Ron Todd's men".

During question time exchanges, Mr Maclean asked why some of the "few scientists" involved had dissociated themselves from parts of the report or resigned from the committee.

He also expressed surprise that the BMA had called for more information and less secrecy.

Had no one told them the last vestiges of secrecy surrounding pesticides had been swept away and that UK statutory controls were some of the toughest in the world?

He said: "If there is any question mark over any pesticide, then it is automatically brought forward instantly for review. We are prioritising the review of all pesticides so that those in the top category will be reviewed very speedily indeed."

David Clark, shadow agriculture minister, said that public anxiety about pesticides had been heightened by the report and Mr Maclean's complacency had not helped.

Mr Maclean told MPs that ministers would continue to fight against the export of live horses for consumption on the continent.

HOUSE OF LORDS

Handicap question divides peers in debate on late abortions

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE House of Lords was sharply divided last night over whether to allow late abortions when a baby is found to be severely handicapped.

During a heated debate on the ethical issues of abortion the peers approved the Commons amendment, cutting the time limit for abortions from 28 weeks to 24 weeks. But they disputed the grounds for allowing terminations up to the time of birth.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, called on peers to support the amendment to prevent late abortions where a baby is found to be severely handicapped.

Deliberately to destroy a viable albeit handicapped human being in order to avoid distress to the mother devalued such life in an unacceptable way. There should be a moral distinction between abortion to protect the life of the mother and abortion on the ground of potential severe handicap of the baby.

Opening the debate on the Human Fertilisation and Em-

bryology bill, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said the Commons amendment cut the time limit for abortion from 28 to 24 weeks. The Commons decision reflects the bill introduced by Lord Houghton of Sowerby which, in turn, was based on the Lords select committee.

In abortions after 24 weeks a statement of the nature of the clinical condition or handicap would be required. Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, wanted to make such information public while protecting confidentiality.

Only 24 abortions were performed last year after 24 weeks of pregnancy. In 23 cases there had been the risk of serious foetal handicap and none of them had been after 27 weeks. No decision to carry out a late abortion was ever taken lightly.

The Conservative peer Lady Cox said Lord Houghton had warned her that women's organisations would tear her limb from limb for attempting to restrict late abortions.

"I say to Lord Houghton that our concern is to try to prevent unborn children being torn limb from limb which has sometimes happened in late abortions when the infant who is old enough to feel pain has been dismembered in utero."

She believed that after 24 weeks when a baby is capable of sustaining independent life it deserved protection.

Supporting her, Lord McColl of Dulwich, director of surgery at Guy's hospital, said that irresponsible mavericks would be able to kill a child up to the time of birth. Despite assurances to the contrary, the Abortion Act, 1967 led to abortion on demand

The Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, said the question was whether the presumption should lie with the preservation of life or with the destruction of life when it is inconvenient to a greater or lesser extent to ourselves.

Lord Brightman, who chaired the Lords year-long enquiry into the abortion laws, said the Commons amendment closely followed the committee's recommendations. "There is no logic or humanity in requiring a

mother against her will to carry an unborn child to full term merely because the diagnosis was made too late to enable a termination to be carried out within a fixed timetable."

Lord Houghton of Sowerby said anti-abortionists objecting to the Commons amendment wanted a "weasel formula" put into the Bill to allow prosecutions of doctors performing terminations where a baby is capable of being born alive.

SENTENCING

Labour support for jail measure

By QUENTIN COWDREY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR says it supports ministerial plans to encourage courts to imprison fewer people, due to be unveiled in a flagship government bill next month.

Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary, said yesterday that Labour wholeheartedly supported what it considered would be the bill's central thrust, a proposal to persuade courts to jail many fewer non-violent offenders.

His statement, made at a conference in London on crime prevention, raises the prospect that the Opposition might vote for a bill expected to dominate what could well be the last parliamentary session before the general election.

It was unclear last night, however, whether Labour would make its support conditional upon the government's accepting amendments to the bill designed to ensure that judges and magistrates firmly adopt the new policy.

Mr Hattersley said that Labour welcomed the government's recognition that imprisonment was a costly, even counter-productive, penalty for most offenders. He spoke of Labour's "ecumenical" backing for the plans.

He added, however, that ministers' refusal to accept the need for the creation of a sentencing council to monitor and enforce the planned guidelines was a serious flaw. They also had to sound less punitive when discussing sentencing because their rhetoric was sending conflicting messages to the courts.

There was little reason, he said, to believe that courts would radically change their ways.

Pay deal for Gulf troops

Tom King, the defence secretary, made clear last night the pay arrangements to ensure that military personnel serving in the Gulf are no worse off. In fact, he said in a Commons written reply, most will get more money.

Married personnel who faced a reduction in pay as a result of moving from Germany or other locations will have an abatement of their charges. Others facing a cut will be recompensed.

Knackers face EC threat

The knackers' trade, unique to the United Kingdom and Ireland, will come to an end in 1995 if an EC directive is accepted in its present form, MPs were told at questions.

David Curry, junior agriculture minister, criticised the directive as unsatisfactory and said the government would try to ensure the continuation of the trade.

Parliament next week

The main Commons business next week will be: Monday: Consideration of Lords amendments to the Employment Bill and the Landlord and Tenant (Licensed Premises) Bill. Tuesday: Debate on the exchange-rate mechanism. Wednesday: Debate on motions to amend parliamentary procedures. Thursday: Broadcasting Bill, Lords amendments. Friday: Courts and Legal Services Bill and the Broadcasting Bill, Lords amendments.

The main business in the Lords will be: Monday: Broadcasting Bill, third reading. Tuesday: Environmental Protection Bill, third reading. Wednesday: Courts and Legal Services Bill, Commons amendments. Thursday: Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, Commons amendments.

The foreign secretary will make a statement to MPs next Wednesday about his Middle East trip.

Parliament will prorogue during the week beginning October 29 and the new session will be opened on November 7.

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Debate on German unification.

LOCAL COUNCILS

Blunkett aims at the bureaucrats

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR promised yesterday that it would make a determined assault on town hall bureaucracy as part of its efforts to win public support for higher spending on local services.

The pledge was made by David Blunkett, the Opposition's local government spokesman, as he amplified his party's proposals to make local government more consumer friendly.

Mr Blunkett said it would be unacceptable for councils to reduce the delivery of services to charge-payers while maintaining "heavy management and administrative structures".

The shadow minister said it was necessary to rebuild confidence in public

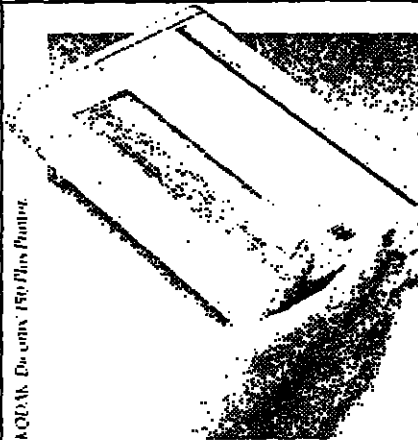
provision. Labour would not offer a monopoly in which council labour forces were the sole providers of services. Private firms would be allowed to tender for services such as refuse collection, but cost would not be the only criterion in awarding contracts. The quality commission planned by Labour would have a central role in ensuring that consumer satisfaction was also taken into account.

"For those who believe that efficiency and effectiveness are more than merely cheapness, competition is seen as one, but only one, of a number of strands in ensuring quality and consumer satisfaction. This is why the Labour party has not rejected tendering out of hand but

sees it as a small part of a much wider programme for improvement and real prosperity."

"While competitive tendering (avoiding compulsion wherever possible) has a part to play, it is only a part. Disseminating good practice, supporting innovation and initiatives, rewarding service as well as penalising incompetence, are all part of our vision of the future", Mr Blunkett told a meeting at the Royal Institute of Public Administration in London.

Councils would have to publish their own quality targets. If a local authority repeatedly failed to meet them, the quality commission would be able to force it to place contracts elsewhere.



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Kiev's victorious students call off their hunger strike

From NICK WORRALL IN KIEV

REJOICING at what appeared to be their absolute political victory over the Ukrainian government, students in Kiev decided in a mass vote yesterday to call a temporary halt to their two-week-old hunger strike.

The decision showed the students' distrust of President Kravchuk and his conservative Communist parliamentary majority which had reneged on its July undertakings to give the republic greater autonomy and make its armed forces independent of Moscow. After a meeting at the strikers' huge tented camp

in central Kiev they resolved that they "do not have full trust in the Ukrainian parliament and therefore only suspend the hunger strike".

A crowd of thousands jammed Kiev's widest street, the Khreshchatik, cheering and applauding the students' political victory, the first such defeat of a government in the 73-year history of the Soviet Union. Many waved blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags and one of the placards said of the 200 hunger strikers: "You are our consciousness, the best sons and daughters of our nation." On Wednesday two

hunger-striking who had refused water were rushed to hospital and placed in intensive care. Most were taking regular sips of water or herbal tea to avoid dehydration. The hunger-striking wore white headbands and were being cared for by thousands of volunteers.

City life for the past few days has been disrupted by countless street marches, first by students, then by increasing numbers of office and factory workers who decided to give their support. By midnight on Wednesday, a small hunger-strike camp set up outside the parliament building on Saturday had been dismantled. Eight of the strikers there were people's deputies who addressed the Ukrainian parliament — still wearing their headbands — to press the students' demands.

Unexpectedly on Wednesday morning, President Kravchuk conceded the students' primary demand by announcing the resignation of his prime minister, Vitali Masol, regarded by the students as the principal obstacle to reform in Ukraine. Later that night, amid demands from some ultra-conservatives for a state of emergency and tough military action to clear the city of demonstrators, the 354 deputies in parliament were asked by the president to vote on a compromise package.

The deputies agreed by 314 votes to 40 that a referendum of confidence in the government should be held next year which would also decide on a framework for new, multi-party elections; that no Ukrainians should do compulsory military service outside the republic; that a commission should be set up to examine the question of nationalising property owned by the Communist Party; that President Gorbachev's proposed new union treaty should be rejected until the Ukraine has decided on and adopted a new, more independent constitution.

There is bound to be a clash with Moscow over the question of military service. A Ukrainian parliamentary delegation in Moscow to discuss this tricky matter this week was reported to have been told by the defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yezov, that it would be "impossible" for republics like the Ukraine to dictate terms of military service. The marshal also opposed any concept of an individual republican army within the Soviet Union.

Moscow hauls in illegal weapons

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

A NATIONWIDE campaign against illegal weapons and armies in the Soviet Union has led to the recovery of huge quantities of materiel but failed to break up the armed bands of Armenia, the interior ministry admitted yesterday.

The ministry, which like all agencies of the Soviet government has lost considerable power to its counterparts in the 15 republics, said three tons of explosives, 700,000 pieces of ammunition and 20,200 firearms had been seized or surrendered since August 11. That was the date when President Gorbachev's decree outlawing private armies, which was initially supposed to take effect over 15 days from July 25, was extended by two months.

The ministry said the arms haul had been most successful in the Slav republics and Kazakhstan, and it singled out the weaponry recovered in the Ukraine: 6,600 firearms including 2,500 military rifles, and 375,000 rounds of ammunition. It was not clear whether those seizures had anything to do with the Ukrainian nationalist movement which, since the veiled insurgency of the immediate post-war years, has been scrupulously non-violent.

Easily the most difficult operation was that in Armenia, whose unofficial armies, thought at their height to have grouped well over 100,000 fighters against neighbouring Azerbaijan, were the main target. About 56 people, including five members of the security forces, were killed as a

direct result of efforts to quell and disarm various paramilitary forces in the southern republic. Despite delicate compromise-broking by Levon Ter-Petrosian, Armenia's nationalist president, the interior ministry acknowledged that its task was not yet completed.

"Illegal activity by a whole series of armed groups has not yet been neutralised," a ministry statement said.

In one typical incident earlier this month, Armenian villagers acting with the apparent complicity of police seized an armoured personnel carrier and its passengers, including two Azerbaijani civilians. Azerbaijani villagers retaliated by halting a train and taking nine hostages. After negotiations, both sides gave up their captives two days later.

Faced with open defiance of their authority, the Soviet security forces have in certain places been inching towards compromise with local nationalists. Senior Armenian politicians were invited recently to the local army headquarters to watch exercises and hold apparently constructive talks about fulfilling the nationalist demand that youths do military service only in their home republic.

A similar demand has been endorsed by the Ukrainian parliament, and a member of that republic's government said this week that, after stonewalling at first, Moscow defence chiefs now seemed willing to co-operate with its implementation.



Western workout: Jane Fonda (wearing glasses) showing the way in a keep-fit session outside the Kremlin. The actress is in Moscow to promote aerobics

Unity revives fortunes of nazi industrial giant

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

ONE of the liveliest shares now quoted on the Frankfurt stock exchange is that of an industrial company which is not only in liquidation, but has not produced anything since the second world war. Speculators, including at least two British companies, are buying into the firm so fast that the share value has doubled in recent months to around £10.

Listed as "IG Farben in Liquidation", it is heir to the assets of what was once the biggest chemical conglomerate in the world and which, under the Nazi regime, manufactured the Zyklon-B gas used in extermination camps.

The rush to buy into the company is because it now has a chance of reclaiming property in what was East Germany with a value estimated at billions of pounds. At its headquarters in Frankfurt, the company liquidators have drawn up claims for around 60

square miles of land, chemical plant and machinery. The necessary paperwork was lodged with the authorities by October 13 which, under the terms of the unification treaty, was the cut-off date for claims on property in East Germany.

During the war IG Farben employed around 330,000 people in 50 different concerns around the Third Reich. They provided many of the materials necessary to run the Nazi war machine, including oil, explosives and synthetic rubber, produced at Auschwitz by forced-labour gangs.

After the war the 11 company directors were tried for war crimes and imprisoned. In the Soviet zone, or areas like Auschwitz in what is now Poland, the company's property was nationalised and run by the state.

The Western allies split the conglomerate into the constituent parts which had been first pulled together in the 1920s to

create IG Farben. The individual companies — BASF, Bayer, Hoechst and Agfa — among them — prospered thanks to West Germany's free-market economy.

In 1952 it was realised that the original company had so many outstanding claims against it that it was necessary to set up a special operation. It paid out around £5 million in reparations, looked after company pensioners, and did what it could to reclaim confiscated assets in the east.

Ernst-Joachim Bartsch, one of the two liquidators, is sure it will be possible to recover at least something, although the unification treaty excludes property confiscated by the Soviet authorities between 1945 and 1949. The liquidators intend to fight on the ground that these expropriations were illegal and therefore invalid. The legal battle is likely to prove a test case for many smaller claims.

Europe talks on trade at impasse

From MICHAEL BIVON IN BRUSSELS

NEGOTIATIONS between the European Community and the European Free Trade Association to form a 19-nation free trade area have reached an impasse. Virtually no progress was made after two days of talks here, either on how Efta could share in EC decision-making or on the long list of exceptions to EC rules that Efta is demanding.

There is now almost no hope for a treaty setting up the European Economic Area to be completed by the end of the year. Fears exist that talks may break down, prompting several Efta members such as Sweden and Norway, to apply immediately for full community membership.

Franz Blankart, the Swiss economic secretary of state, who is leading the Efta negotiators, said yesterday that both sides had reaffirmed their will to reach agreement. But nothing further had come of the talks.

Efta is still unwilling to shorten its list of proposed exemptions from community rules on freedom of movement of people, goods, labour and services until it knows how the seven countries, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, can shape the rules that would bind both groups. Brussels has failed to present a written proposal, and Mr Blankart said the ideas outlined so far by EC officials would be "almost impossible for Efta to accept."

He said both sides had now been polarised, but this was expected in such complex negotiations. It was only when an impasse had been reached that it could be overcome. "It is absolutely normal and foreseeable," he said.

Efta has been told that their experts can join in preparatory discussions on new regulations, and that their officials can also help draft them. But it will have no right to vote on directives that EC ministers will consider, even though they will be binding in all 19 countries. Efta cannot accept *faits accomplis*, removing the sovereign right of the seven to vote on laws affecting them.

Brussels, however, refuses to agree to permanent exceptions to the principles of free movement of goods and people. Countries such as Switzerland and Norway want to prevent outsiders being allowed to purchase property. Iceland wants to prevent a labour influx overwhelming its tiny population. All seven countries want to keep their higher standards of health and safety, which the EC says must be waived if EC products are to be allowed free access to their markets.

Since talks began in the summer, progress has been glacial. Brussels has been bogged down in other issues, and EC foreign ministers have had little time to give the negotiations much attention.

Leading article, page 15

Romania date for reform of economy

Bucharest — Romania is to devalue its currency, slash state subsidies and free prices in a radical reform of the country's economy (Tim Judah writes). In a keynote speech to the combined houses of parliament Petre Roman, the prime minister, said yesterday the reforms would be introduced on November 1.

"We have to enact the reforms, not just affirm their necessity," he told deputies. He also announced that domestic energy prices, rents and certain foodstuffs would be protected from price rises and that wages would be indexed to inflation.

The need to implement the reform was "urgent", he said, asking parliament to grant the government special powers over fiscal and customs matters for the next six months.

Mr Roman said that he expected unemployment to rise dramatically over the next year. While not putting a figure on the expected rate of unemployment, he said that as many as one million people might be "inefficiently employed" in a year. He expected 50 per cent of the economy to be in private hands within three years.

TV allowed on Mururoa

Papeete — France has allowed an Australian television crew on to its Mururoa atoll nuclear test site in the South Pacific as part of a new policy to end secrecy about atomic testing.

French and Polynesian television cameras have been allowed on the island but the officials said it was the first time a TV crew from an English-speaking country had visited the site. (Reuters)

Second Turk minister quits

Ankara — The Turkish defence minister Safa Gıray resigned yesterday, the second cabinet minister to quit in six days. No reason was given.

The foreign minister Ali Bozer resigned on October 12 in an apparent rift over his virtual exclusion by President Ozal from Turkey's policy over the Gulf. (Reuters)

Told to go

Thunder Bay, Ontario — Bembek, a former model and Playboy Club waitress turned convicted killer who became a folk hero known as "Bambi" in the United States after she escaped from prison has been charged with working illegally in Canada and over-staying visiting privileges. (Reuters)

Vatican cuts

Rome — Cardinals who gave up first class flights and secretaries who forsook pay rises has helped the Vatican contain its 1989 operating deficit at \$54.7 million. \$11.2 million more than 1988 but \$23.3 million less than had been forecast. (Reuters)

General ousted for plotting

From PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S communist-appointed defence minister, dismissed on Wednesday by President Havel, was removed from office for his role in preparing the army to put down last November's "velvet revolution", according to a presidential commission report released here yesterday.

The report said the army was preparing to send troops and tanks into the streets to defend the communist system, and the sacked defence minister, General Miroslav Vacek, then the army chief of staff, was a key supporter of the use of force. It was unclear whether the army was to act to support the dwindling power of the communist party hierarchy, or whether it was acting on behalf of hardline party officials. The general acted on orders from the defence minister to co-ordinate meetings with the interior ministry and organise "Operation Wave", intended to take control of radio and television stations at the height of the revolution.

"Operation Wave" was initiated by Rudolf Hegenbart, the hardline head of the party central committee's "department 13" and the suspected boss of the country's secret police. The army pushed hard for a military solution, the report said. It promised Politburo hardliners that it "would attempt to influence the central committee in the direction of firm political decisions to protect and to preserve the leading role of the communist party and socialism".

Special operational groups were established, officers and men were divided according to their political reliability and 14,500 men and 155 tanks were made available for putting down the street protests. From 4pm on November 24, the report said, these army units "were ready to fulfil their planned tasks".

President Havel dismissed General Vacek immediately after he read the commission's report.



Chernobyl appeal: Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Grodno, the Exarch of Belorussia, issuing a passionate appeal in Vienna yesterday for aid to fight the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

US defence bill slashed

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

HOUSE and Senate negotiators have finally agreed on America's first post-Cold War defence budget. After a decade of sustained military build-up, they have reversed direction, approving a bill that cuts spending, squeezes President Reagan's cherished Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) programme, and sets in train a big demobilisation of service men over the next five years. On the future of the controversial B2 "stealth" bomber, however, they were deliberately ambiguous.

The bill, which both houses of Congress and the White House are expected to accept, sets the Pentagon's 1991 budget at \$288 billion (£147 billion), \$6 billion less than this year and almost \$19 billion less than the White House had asked for. The

Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had dulled congressional appetite for securing a really big "peace dividend", and this was a more modest reduction than once expected.

The negotiators agreed to keep alive the B2 programme, but only just. They allocated \$4.1 billion for research and procurement, but failed to specify whether this was simply to complete the 15 B2s already ordered, or to permit the Pentagon to order two more in 1991.

The House has been determined to kill the programme. Les Aspin, chairman of the armed services committee, said the Pentagon would require specific congressional approval to order two more B2s. However, Sam Nunn, his Senate counterpart, said that the air force now had the

authority to order two more aircraft and that the programme was "alive and well". The bill proposes a big reduction in spending on the Strategic Defence Initiative from \$3.8 billion this year to \$2.9 billion next, \$1.8 billion less than the administration wanted and the lowest level since 1985.

US troop strength, currently 2.1 million, will be cut by 100,000, including 50,000 based in Europe, as the first step in a reduction of 425,800 over the next five years. The bill also cuts by about two-thirds the administration's funding request for the 10-warhead MX nuclear missile and the single-warhead Mid-gutman missile, and the negotiators refused funding for a rail system for the MX to make it less vulnerable.

TV advertisers vie for children's minds

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN children woke up yesterday to the chilling prospect of life without mutant turtles, or at least the television version of their heroes.

Because the cartoons amount to programme-length commercials for the plastic turtles and their paraphernalia, the television shows are likely to fall under new restrictions on advertisements permitted on children's television. The law, passed by Congress and reluctantly approved by President Bush on Wednesday, responds to the alarm of parents and educators at the damage being done to the young American psyche by deteriorating television values and an unprecedented commercial assault.

In the view of many, children are being used as a vulnerable captive audience in an ever more ferocious struggle for a market worth billions of dollars. The battle for the brand affections of little hearts and minds

has gone too far, even for some in the commercial world. *Advertising Age*, the trade weekly, said recently: "What used to be a somewhat even battle between the exaggerations and lure of advertising and the prudence of authority figures at home has become dangerously one-sided." It called on advertisers to "soften their hedonistic appeals" to children.

The new law limits commercials on children's programmes to 10% minutes an hour on weekends and 12 minutes on weekdays. It also requires stations to broadcast at least some educational fare as a condition for the renewal of their licences. Mr Bush came close to imposing a veto and withheld his blessing because he believes that the law infringes the right of free speech, guaranteed under the first amendment to the constitution.

Since all limits to commercials were removed by the Reagan administration on the same constitutional

grounds, children's television has multiplied seven days a week on the array of broadcast and cable channels.

It is dominated by crude and usually violent cartoons which are often vehicles for merchandise. Even those are punctuated by advertisements for up to a quarter of the time. Adult programmes rarely show more than eight minutes an hour of advertisements. The new law also requires the federal regulators to restrict "programme-length commercials".

This frenetically paced "kidvid" is being blamed for everything from the decrease in attention span and reading ability reported by schools, to the surge in street crime. The University of Pennsylvania reported in January that children were being exposed to a "mean and dangerous world". Violent acts had risen from 18 an hour in 1980 to 26 in 1989. "We are doing severe damage to our children," said Senator Paul Simon, one of the sponsors of a

draft bill to limit violence on television.

According to a recent spate of studies, many children are being turned into couch potatoes. A study by Yale psychologists this year contradicted the view that children at least absorbed information about the world from television. They found that heavy-viewing children were less well informed than those who went out to play with their friends. Others are arguing that kidsvid and exposure to the unprecedented earthiness of adult shows are depriving children of their innocence.

Over the past couple of years firms have also begun campaigns in schools. In one of the most controversial, the Whittle group provides free television sets and a closed-circuit programme to schools if they show commercials in the class. Brands such as McDonalds and Kentucky Fried Chicken are also "sponsoring" classroom activities.

"Please don't help me."

Jamie Lavan, 10, is attempting to walk 20 yards unaided, in front of his doctors at Hammersmith Hospital. For a child with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, it's a marathon.

Duchenne is a fatal muscle wasting disease that progressively weakens young boys. Few live beyond their early 20s.

Though Jamie doggedly refuses assistance, he does, of course, need all the help he can get.

Researchers, funded by us, are racing to find the cure. And they're making dramatic progress.

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Kaifu plan to send troops abroad runs into trouble

From Joe Joseph in Tokyo

THREE days of pleading in parliament have not only failed to win Toshiaki Kaifu the support of opposition MPs and some doubters in his own party for his plan to send Japanese soldiers abroad again after 45 years. His awkward handling of the bill may have swelled the daunting odds against him.

Japan's prime minister has provoked such a storm that some of his own praetorian guards have unsheathed their swords. Opposition MPs accuse him of trying to send wolves abroad in sheep's clothing by including troops in his proposed UN Peace Cooperation Corps, a task force designed to help in UN-sanctioned peacekeeping missions. The Tokyo press is hostile. Japan's Asian neighbours are anxious.

Yesterday pacifist groups outside the foreign ministry chanted that "the solution by military force is not the solution for Japan". A squad of 250 riot police moved in to Kyoto University to evict students who had taken over the president's office to protest against the new law. At Tokyo University, alumni in their seventies stood on soapboxes to tell students of the horrors of war.

The embarrassment of losing a prime minister just before princes and presidents arrive for next month's enthronement of Emperor Akihito may be doing a lot to keep Kaifu in office, a Western diplomat said yesterday.

Some of the power brokers in Mr Kaifu's Liberal Democratic Party are just as blunt. Michio Watanabe, head of one of the factions and a man hungry for Mr Kaifu's job, said the cabinet might have to resign if he could not get the bill through parliament. A senior foreign ministry official says Ichiro Ozawa, the secretary-general and one of the architects of the new law, "has washed his hands of Kaifu."

Backbench MPs are wary of backing a bill that is so unpopular with their constituents, who have grim memories of the horrors of war.



Kaifu inches out within his party over Gulf force

ories of war and find Iraq too distant a place to worry about. Only a few months ago Mr Kaifu was being cited as Japan's most popular postwar leader. He is learning why Japan's favourite political saw runs: "one inch ahead in darkness."

Mr Kaifu has been insisting that allowing members of Japan's Self-Defence Forces to take part in non-combat roles in UN peacekeeping missions would not offend Japan's war-renouncing constitution, since the bill prohibits them from using force.

He has failed to satisfy Takako Doi, who leads the opposition Socialists and can block the bill's passage through the opposition-controlled upper house. Aware that public opinion is with her, Miss Doi accused the government of deceit and of violating Japan's constitution.

Government officials say that, even in the unlikely event of the bill getting through parliament, it will be unlikely to number more than 1,000 men and women.

This is likely to surprise Washington, which must be assuming that Japan is pressing ahead with the plan to prove that it is pulling its weight in the Middle East, along with its allies.

The Japanese press disclosed that President Bush had asked Mr Kaifu to send forces to the Gulf when the two leaders met in New York on September 29.

A foreign ministry official said: "Our basic principle is that we don't send personnel to combat zones. So if fighting starts, they will be withdrawn way back behind the front line."

The *Asahi* newspaper wrote of "mounting suspicion that the government and the Liberal Democratic Party, rather than responding to an immediately urgent issue, are poised to take advantage of the opportunity as a breakthrough for the dispatching abroad of SDF troops in the future."

Under headlines proclaiming "The Rebirth Of Japanese Militarism", South Korean newspapers are also prickly. The *Seoul Shinmun* said that "Japan is attempting to change the fundamentals of its diplomatic policies for the last 45 years since the war and divorce itself from its exclusively defensive stance".

Raul Manglapus, foreign secretary of the Philippines, spoke of "a general feeling of concern in the whole region because of recollections of what took place during world war two".

Ethiopia able to seize advantage

From Andrew Lycett in Addis Ababa

THE Gulf confrontation has given Ethiopia an unexpected opportunity to win Western support. The foreign ministry can go days, even weeks, without issuing policy statements, but on this issue it is positively loquacious.

As a member of the 15-nation UN Security Council, it has consistently condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and voted to apply sanctions. It also supports the sending of the multinational task force to Saudi Arabia and does not mind who knows it.

When he is being coy, the foreign minister, Tesfaye Dinka, presses up his government's position as a peculiarly Ethiopian response to the situation. Fifty-five years ago, Ethiopia was the victim of Italian Fascist aggression and "of the failure of the community of nations to live up to collectively assumed obligations", he says.

The minister's senior advisers say that Iraq has consistently supported the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, which is fighting a secessionist war in northern Ethiopia, and vice versa. "It is another example of Iraq's quest for regional domination," argues one. Mr Tesfaye sees how this allegation can be worked to Ethiopia's advantage.

If he can portray the Front as an Iraqi stooge, he can score points in the propaganda battle to win Western — and particularly American — support for Ethiopia's efforts to secure peace in its rebellious northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigray. He understands how strongly Western governments link peace in Eritrea with their continuing support for Ethiopia's economy.

Educated at the local Wingate School, a British-type public school before the 1974 revolution, and Syracuse University in America, he is

described by a Washington source as able "to charm the snakes off a porcupine". On a visit to Washington in July, Mr Tesfaye expressed his desire to reopen peace talks with the Front. These were initiated last year by the former US president, Jimmy Carter, but stalled over the issue of UN participation. The Front wanted the UN as an observer, leading to a referendum. Ethiopia objected, with some backing from the UN, whose constitution limits its role in countries' internal affairs.

Following a meeting between Mr Tesfaye and the US Secretary of State, James Baker, Washington brought the Front and the Ethiopian government together at the state department two weeks ago. The United States, the Soviet Union and Ethiopia all want to revive the idea of foreign observers.

The Front says this is a dead duck and wants no outside powers except the United States to be involved. Either way, Washington clearly has an important role to play in peace initiatives in the Horn of Africa, and Mr Tesfaye intends to influence it.

He has also explained Ethiopia's "principled" stand on the Gulf confrontation to its Arab neighbours. In recent weeks it has entertained two Saudi and two Kuwaiti delegations, as well as one each from Egypt and Yemen. It claims a warm response to its requests that these countries withdraw their support from the Front and its close ally, the Tigray People's Liberation Front. The Front denies receiving support from Iraq. It accuses the Ethiopian government of seeking to exploit the Gulf crisis by issuing fake documents purporting to show that the Front has welcomed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.



Coming to blows: a struggle between a Peruvian policeman and a housewife in Lima yesterday during a poor women's march outside Congress seeking food aid

Peking leaders revive call for faster reforms

From Reuters in Peking

CHINA'S Communist Party leader, Jiang Zemin, signalled yesterday what diplomats saw as a significant shift in Peking's power struggle by reviving a once discredited slogan calling for faster reforms.

Diplomats said it appeared that Mr Jiang, aged 64, was trying to establish himself as the true successor to elder statesman Deng Xiaoping, aged 86, and not just a stop-gap leader. Mr Deng, although in retirement, is believed to hold the reins of power.

"China will stick to the policies of reform and opening up laid down by Comrade Deng Xiaoping. We intend to speed up the process of reform and opening but we will keep to the socialist road," Mr Jiang was quoted as saying by the *People's Daily*.

In a separate report, President Yang praised Mr Deng as the architect of the last decade of reforms and said they would be "speeded up a little".

Diplomats said the nuances were important. It was the first reference to quickening reforms by a Chinese leader for a long time and recalled the slogan used by former party leader, Zhao Ziyang, at the 13th party congress in 1987. As hardliners gained the upper hand the slogan was

dropped in 1988 and replaced by "deepening the reforms" and "economic readjustment and rectification".

Mr Jiang, a Soviet-trained technocrat who replaced Mr Zhao last year, was widely seen as Mr Deng's protégé but lacking his own power base and vulnerable to attacks by conservatives after his mentor's eventual death.

The twinning of Mr Jiang's remarks with Mr Yang's seemed to signify that they were working together under Mr Deng's banner, a Western diplomat said.

Their comments, made to visiting Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore prime minister, were in sharp contrast to an economic policy speech issued by Li Peng, the prime minister, last week which advocated caution and argued against speed. "We cannot develop blindly... We do not want to seek overly rapid growth," he said.

No mention was made of reforms in the report on Mr Li's meeting with his guest, which was published with the other two reports on the front page of *People's Daily*. "Jiang's remarks are important, significant... But he does not mean political reform," said an East European diplomat.

Summit offer to Seoul by Kim

From Simon Warner in Seoul

PRESIDENT Kim Il Sung of North Korea said yesterday that he was ready for a summit with Roh Tae Woo, his South Korean counterpart, as soon as talks between their prime ministers make progress in easing Cold War tensions.

President Kim told Kang Young Hoon, the visiting South Korean prime minister, that he was pleased talks had "proceeded smoothly". Although the two days of prime ministerial talks in Pyongyang did not yield any significant agreement, it was decided that a third meeting would be convened in Seoul for December 11-14.

In Seoul there are expectations that an agreement on a non-aggression pact will be reached during the December meeting or at one after a summit between President Kim and President Roh some time next year. Experts believe that the North Korean president appeared to be trying to take personal credit for moving the peace process forward. In fact, it is being dictated by the rapid progress in relations between Seoul and Peking and the South's restoration of ties with Moscow, which has left North Korea isolated.

"Please don't help me."



more promising: for the 20,000 adults and children with Duchenne and associated conditions, and for those yet unborn.

Three years ago, scientists isolated the protein, dystrophin, the absence of which causes Duchenne and related disorders. (In the words of a researcher, it was like a light being turned on in a darkened room.)

Since then the pace has quickened. This year, tests are under way to inject cells carrying the protein into affected muscles, to try to make them grow again.

And — most exciting of all — ways are being sought to implant genes which would themselves deliver the protein to those muscles.

Taken together, these two lines of approach hold out a simple promise — in cell therapy, for a treatment; and in gene therapy, for the cure.

"1990 has been the most exciting year in the Muscular Dystrophy Group's 30 year history. For our many parents it's been frustrated excitement, because, of course, they want an effective treatment right now. But the treatment and the cure WILL come. We must just keep up the effort."

PAUL WALKER, DIRECTOR, MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY GROUP

Jamie is challenging us to a race against time.

For there is much work to be done to make the cure a reality. It's the kind of steady, dedicated, painstaking work that needs, above all, money.

"I remember a year or two back they were testing Jamie's muscles with needles. As he lay there, his tears were filling the well of his collar bone. He said, don't cry Mummy, I can take it, I can take it, if it's going to find me a cure."

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

Because we're not a large charity, we concentrate our publicity effort around Muscular Dystrophy Week, from October 13-20.

For that week, muscular dystrophy is a national issue, with lots of fund raising events taking place nationwide. (And they're fun, too.)

Jamie would love you, your family and friends, to give your support.

He will not give up the struggle. Neither can we.

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"I'm going to do it by myself. I'm going to fight it to the bone. Kick it in the teeth"

Jamie Lavan, 10, has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a fatal disease that picks on young boys. Starting with the legs, it wastes muscle tissue, weakening as it goes, finally affecting the lungs and the heart.

The end usually comes in the late teens or early twenties.

"Other people, they get older on the outside. I'm being worn away from the inside. I wish I could stop the clock. Especially at birthdays."

For Viv and Tony Lavan, Jamie's diagnosis was a hammer blow: he is their hard-won only child. But they're fighting the disease like tigers. Through sheer determination, he can still walk twenty yards unaided, to the delight of the team at Hammersmith Hospital. Sports, games, climbing trees are

out, but he still goes to cubs. And school:

"This boy called me Skoda legs. I called him Concorde nose, 'cos he has. Then my friend hit him. He doesn't call me it now."

If only his determination alone could cheat the disease. But it can't. Jamie needs all the help he can get.

At the moment he can't really bear to look at calipers, but soon he'll be in them. Spinal braces, rods and jackets, and various wheelchairs will follow.

He will have to be turned during the night, manhandled to the bathroom. He won't be able to clean his teeth, comb his hair.

"It's like life going into reverse, watching Jamie grow helpless as he grows up. But he keeps us going, really. You can see him fighting inside. We can't let him down."

The disease follows a dismal course. But read on, for the fact is things have never looked

British fudging on foreign policy helps mischief-makers

THE cancellation of Douglas Hurd's talks with Palestinians in Israel was caused not so much by mischievous Israeli misquotas as by Britain's indecisiveness on the Palestinian issue. It showed how easily those who sit on the fence can be pushed off it.

If there is a lesson, it is the lack of wisdom in trying to be on both sides of a controversial issue. Five or six other areas of British foreign policy suffer from lack of clarity.

Britain's policies on the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar share the ambiguity displayed on the Palestinian issue. Policy on Tibet is marked by timidity, on Europe by internal divisions, on South Georgia by weakness, and on Cyprus by a refusal to meet treaty obligations. In the case of Hong Kong, it mirrors the self-doubt of a mouse negotiating with a cat.

This is not to suggest that all British foreign policy is fudged. No one doubts its clarity on nuclear weapons, sanctions

The Hurd fiasco would not have occurred if Britain's stand on the Palestinian issue had been clearer. Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, highlights ambiguities in other areas

against Pretoria, Vietnamese boat people, democracy in East Europe, President Gorbachev's virtues, or the evils of Colonel Gaddafi.

Taken as a whole, British policy reflects the struggle between Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe during his six years as foreign secretary. John Major did not have time to learn the ropes before being moved to No. 11.

The appointment of Mr Hurd a year ago next week changed the balance. His greater personal popularity, compared with Mrs Thatcher, has restored Foreign Office supremacy over foreign policy. He has begun to untangle the knots, restoring relations with Iran, clarifying policy on Cam-

bodia, and helping Mr Major and Sir Geoffrey to convince Mrs Thatcher on entering the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. The hostages are next, probably followed by Syria. But much remains to be done.

□ The Palestinian issue: Mr Hurd said that the British position was well known. In fact, it is little known, because it was written timidly to avoid attention.

Nothing could be weaker than the statement that Britain "favours self-determination for the Palestinian people. Whether or not that leads to a Palestinian state is a matter for them and for negotiation". It was understandable if the Palestinians thought

that meant a lack of support for statehood. The Israelis made it sound like outright opposition, by twisting Mr Hurd's words. They could not have done that if the policy had been clear.

Successive British governments have said that Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is illegal, and have backed Palestinian self-determination. It is not logically possible to square that with silence on statehood. The policy should say that Britain supports a Palestinian state within borders giving security to Israel, Palestine and neighbouring countries. How the borders should be determined is a different matter.

The policy suffers from the same dilemma as UN resolution 242, of which Britain was the main author. Although it was the foundation stone of subsequent peace efforts, it was flawed by a lack of plain-speaking which angered Palestinians.

□ The Falklands: Britain has

begun to follow policies which will lead Argentines to think that the sovereignty of the Falklands will one day be negotiable. This is not a criticism of the renewal of diplomatic relations in March, which was a wise step.

The fault lies in other decisions which suggest a lack of moral confidence in Britain's sovereignty. It was a mistake to separate the constitution of the Falklands from that of South Georgia, implying that Britain might give up the former while retaining the latter.

Sir Geoffrey was unwise to refuse the islanders' requests that he declare a 200-mile limit, (apart from the area between the islands and the mainland, which would be equally divided). His hand was forced in 1986, when Argentina tried to encroach on Falkland waters. But he declared only a 150-mile limit, which has proved inadequate for fishing conservation, on which the islands' econ-

omy depends. The islanders are again appealing for a 200-mile zone. Mr Hurd should agree, both to help the islanders and to remove doubts on sovereignty.

□ Gibraltar: The Brussels Agreement of 1984, under which Britain and Spain agreed to meet annually, was a sound move. Sir Geoffrey followed it with a second clear signal of Britain's intentions by announcing the run-down and eventual withdrawal of the British garrison. These were accompanied by assurances that Gibraltar would not be handed back to Spain against the will of the people. Britain appears to be facing both ways, and Mr Hurd has not clarified the middle.

Given that Spain is now a democracy, and belongs to the EC and Nato, there is no justification to continue owning the only colony in Western Europe. It is time to persuade the Gibraltarians to accept Spanish sovereignty.

□ Europe: Britain faces near-

certain defeat at the two inter-governmental conferences on political and monetary union in Rome in December. None of the other 11 countries believes that Mrs Thatcher's objections will carry the day, because her divisions with Mr Hurd, Sir Geoffrey and Mr Major are obvious. She objected to the Single European Act, which provides for majority voting on some issues, to British membership of the ERM, and to the holding of the two conferences. She had to give way each time. Only a clearly united British policy will be taken seriously.

□ Tibet: Britain helped to shame the Soviet Union into cleaning up its human rights record, yet has been inaudible on Peking's rape of Lhasa. It helped remind the world that Mongolia is not a Soviet republic, yet accepts what it calls the "sovereignty" of China over Tibet. Britain's inconsistency cries for attention.

Hurd repairs Israel links at risk of breach with Arabs

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

THE four-day visit to Israel by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has put Anglo-Israeli relations on a new footing at the expense of Britain's standing with Palestinians.

Even the new warmth in Anglo-Israeli ties was marred by suggestions that right-wing Israeli MPs deliberately embarrassed Mr Hurd by leaking reports that he had expressed opposition to a Palestinian state. Angry Palestinian leaders boycotted a meeting with Mr Hurd in protest on Wednesday.

Mr Hurd, who yesterday held final talks with Moshe Arens, the defence minister, before leaving for Athens, said he had been misrepresented. He reiterated Britain's support for Palestinian self-determination, saying that

whether this led to a Palestinian state or not was a matter for negotiation.

But sources in the Knesset insisted that Mr Hurd had said that Britain did not favour the idea of a Palestinian state. They said that this had laid Mr Hurd open to the risk that his remarks would be used to cause a breach between Britain and the Palestinians.

The incident sounded a sour note in what was otherwise a week of remarkable cordiality, with Mr Hurd and David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, effusive about their new-found friendship. The mutual regard was all the more striking, given the differences between them.

Mr Hurd, the first British foreign secretary to visit Israel since 1984, has the patrician manner which Israelis tend to associate with the era of the British mandate. To them he appears to be the classic, aloof Englishman, and is automatically assumed to be pro-Arab.

Mr Levy, by contrast, is a former building labourer, a Moroccan immigrant who speaks almost no English, and has risen to high office by climbing the ladder of the right-wing Likud party. A figure of fun to left-wing intellectuals, Mr Levy is supported by the increasingly powerful, working-class Sephardic (oriental) Jews and, despite his rough diamond image, could be a future prime minister.

According to Mr Hurd, he and Mr Levy established a "personal chemistry" while conversing in French. By the time Mr Levy hosted a dinner for Mr Hurd on Wednesday evening, Israeli displeasure over Mr Hurd's harsh anti-Israeli remarks in Cairo had been smoothed over.

Mr Hurd failed, in French or any other language, to persuade Israel to accept the UN mission charged with investigating the Temple Mount killings. But he found unanimity on the Gulf confrontation, praised Israel's "shrewd, low profile", and described the Shamir government as sharing Britain's aim of a peaceful Middle East. Britain and Israel agreed to hold "close and regular consultations" in future.

This relationship, if sustained, puts Anglo-Israeli relations in a new perspective. It is only three years since Britain expelled Mossad agents for operating without reference to the British authorities.

Israel will watch closely to see whether Britain now tries to repair its damaged relations with the Palestinians. "We need to know which is the real Douglas Hurd," the *Jerusalem Post* said yesterday; the PLO, or the one who expresses disappointment over the PLO's backing for Iraq and who asserts, as Mr Hurd did at the Knesset this week, that Israel must have "credible, secure borders".

Jerusalem rethink on mission

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday hinted at a compromise over its refusal to allow a United Nations mission to investigate the Temple Mount killings in Jerusalem nearly two weeks ago.

Under the proposal Israel would make available to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, the results of its inquiry under the chairmanship of General Zvi Zamir, a former head of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service. Officials said the findings, due next week, could be supplemented by evidence from UN officials in Israel and the occupied territories.

Douglas Hurd this week urged Israel to accept the UN mission even if it could not accept the UN Security Council resolution on the Temple Mount shootings. He urged Israel not to divert attention from Iraqi aggression in Kuwait. But yesterday Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said after talks with Mr Hurd that there was no room for the UN mission in Israel. He said the UN resolution had "condemned Israel before the mission even set foot here".

The Zamir commission yesterday recalled border police commanders for further questioning. It has interviewed the imprisoned Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini; Ronni Milo, the minister of police, and officers of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, who said their warnings of the coming riot were ignored by border police commanders.

Mr Arens said the Temple Mount killings would not affect the alliance against Iraq as "the coalition built against Saddam Hussein by the US President is sufficiently deep".



War and peace: a Lebanese soldier, relaxing on his tank, watching a group of Christian boys at play in east Beirut. Behind him are the fortifications built along the "green line" dividing the city. Yesterday, for the second day, bulletproof work to clear the green line that has divided Christian east and Muslim west Beirut during Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

President Hrawi's troops tightened security in the Christian enclave where fighting and atrocities, revealed by pro-Syrian sources, have left more than 700 dead in five days (Reuters reports from Beirut). They said that on Saturday General Aoun's soldiers ticked the Syrians by waving a white flag of surrender at Dahr al-Walsh.

Syrian soldiers were shot when they came into the open and later, in anger, killed captured Christians. General Aoun has remained at the French embassy, where he sought sanctuary before his surrender last Saturday. France has promised him asylum, but President Hrawi's government is preventing him from leaving.

Egypt 'backs talks to bypass PLO'

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

IN THE wake of the support given to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Israeli officials believe that both Egypt and the Western powers are "increasingly sympathetic" to the long-standing contention of Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's right-wing prime minister, that Israel should conduct peace talks not with the PLO, but with "non-PLO Palestinian figures" in the occupied territories.

"This is the first political fruit of the PLO's disastrous mistake in backing Baghdad," one source said.

Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said yesterday after talks with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that Palestinian support



Arens says PLO harmed by support for Saddam

for President Saddam had clearly damaged the PLO and "harmful progress towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue". Palestinian personalities accused Britain of moving towards the Israeli concept of an "alternative leadership" in the West Bank and Gaza.

Britain and other Western officials have argued since the Palestinian intifada broke out nearly three years ago that most Palestinians look to the PLO for leadership, and that Mr Shamir's search for non-PLO negotiating partners was bound to prove fruitless. To some extent this still holds. But the fervent Palestinian backing for President Saddam, and what Mr Hurd called "Palestinian attempts to find excuses for the rape of Kuwait", have put Western relations with the PLO under severe strain.

Clearly not displeased by this, Israeli officials have let it be known that Egypt is considering another initiative to open a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians which would "bypass the PLO". Although Egypt persuaded the PLO earlier this year to include the PLO in a formula for Arab-Israeli peace talks, its anger with the PLO over Kuwait equals that of the West.

The Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Ahronot* said yesterday that the new Egyptian plan envisaged Palestinians from the occupied territories visiting Cairo.

Poll shows Britons favour use of force

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITAIN has emerged as the European nation most in favour of using force to free Kuwait, free the hostages or protect the West's oil supplies, according to a Gallup poll of the five largest countries.

The trend was announced yesterday as Iraq offered to sell its oil to companies on both sides of the Gulf conflict for a knockdown \$21 (£10.71) a barrel and as it claimed that enemy planes violated its airspace two days ago, penetrating 2.5 miles inside its Saudi border.

Eighty-six per cent of Britons questioned for the poll, commissioned by the Association for Free Kuwait, said they would back force to free Kuwait if sanctions fail, compared with 75 per cent in France, 66 per cent in Spain, 63 per cent in Germany and 59 per cent in Italy.

The other countries came closer to the British view when the 500 interviewees in each country were asked if they would support force to free the hostages. Britain remained unchanged at 86 per cent but French support rose to 82 per cent, Italian to 72 per cent and Germany to 70 per cent. In Spain it dropped slightly to 63 per cent.

The figures in the poll, carried out between October 1 and October 10, were generally lower on whether force should be used to protect oil supplies. The British remained top at 78 per cent.

The Iraqi offer to sell its oil for \$21 a barrel was made on the

orders of President Saddam Hussein and was designed to sow division among the coalition lined up against him. It followed an earlier offer by Iraq to give its oil away to third world nations.

An announcement over Baghdad radio by Isam Abd al-Rahim al-Shalabi, the oil minister, pledged not to touch the money until the Gulf confrontation is resolved. He said that payment would be taken through a special fund because of the trade embargo. "In order that our decision may not be misinterpreted, we agree that the money paid for the oil should not be transferred, in line with a special arrangement, and Iraq would not have access to it in the normal way until the Gulf crisis is resolved," he said.

The price of \$21 a barrel was the last set by Opec before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2. One oil industry expert said that the offer could prove tempting to poorer nations which saw an opportunity to pay prices well below yesterday's market level of \$34 a barrel.

Yesterday the Iraqi News Agency, quoting a foreign ministry spokesman, said "an enemy formation" of two planes had crossed the Iraqi-Saudi border on Tuesday flying at 21,000 ft south-east of Ar-Ras-Nakhib on the Iraqi-Saudi border. The planes were not identified.

Big Five forced to rely on rhetoric

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JUST last month, British diplomats at the United Nations were insisting that the Security Council should not pass "bleat" resolutions against Iraq.

All five permanent members - Britain, China, France, the United States and the Soviet Union - agreed that resolutions loaded with rhetoric rather than concrete measures would only discredit UN action.

The violence at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and the protracted security council debate that followed have changed that. The Israeli occupation of Arab lands seized in 1967 has resurfaced on the security council agenda with a vengeance, and although few are insisting on formal linkage with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, diplomats now speak of "moral linkage".

The Western powers fear that, if they push tough measures against Iraq, they will have to support further action against Israel or risk fragmenting the anti-Iraq coalition. Another problem is how to revive debate on Iraq when the majority of the security council is still focused on the UN effort to investigate the Temple Mount violence.

The answer of the five permanent members of the security council - acting at the urging of Britain and the United States - is precisely the kind of "bleat" resolution they had resisted.

The "big five" have drafted a text combining US ideas about resupplying the remaining embassies in Kuwait with a watered-down version of Mrs Thatcher's call for Iraq to pay what she called reparations. The draft is described as "less toothy" than other votes against Iraq. It reasserts Iraq's obligations to foreign nationals and embassies in Kuwait, particularly its duty to allow food to reach stranded diplomats there, and at Cuba's insistence asks the UN secretary-general to continue to try to achieve a peaceful solution.

There is no mention of war crimes, despite President Bush's speech earlier this week warning of a repeat of the Nuremberg trials after the second world war. Elaborate plans, contained in a British working paper, to pay compensation out of Iraq's frozen foreign assets have been shelved. The draft resolution simply reaffirms Iraq's liability to pay compensation and invites governments to collect information of claims by their citizens.

Diplomats say the resolution was softened so it could be passed speedily - before next Wednesday's deadline for a UN report on the Temple Mount violence. They say options for further UN measures against Iraq are now running out after a series of unprecedented resolutions since the invasion. "There is not an awful lot extra one can do that is not going to the military option," one said. "But if it is necessary politically, I am sure we can think of something." The five powers have not yet begun work on a resolution giving UN endorsement for military action to reclaim Kuwait.

De Klerk ends state of emergency

From GAVIN BELL IN PRETORIA

PRESIDENT de Klerk has formally ended the four-year-old state of emergency in South Africa, paving the way for full-scale negotiations on a new constitution which the government hopes will begin early next year.

The security measures were withdrawn yesterday in Natal, the scene of years of murderous strife between rival black organisations, the only area in which they remained in force. They were lifted elsewhere last June.

Despite continuing sporadic violence, conditions in Natal had stabilised to the point where the ordinary laws of the land were sufficient to maintain order, Mr de Klerk said yesterday. He trusted it would not become necessary to introduce special security measures again, but the government would not hesitate to do so. "Violence and intimidation bring no solutions," he said. "There is only one route to peace and reconciliation in our country,

and that is through peaceful negotiation."

Although the draconian powers of arrest and indefinite detention were withdrawn, a strong security presence will remain in the province where more than 3,000 people have been killed in factional fighting in the past five years. Adriaan Vlok, the minister of law and order, said he believed more police were required to ensure that there were no new flare-ups.

Special security measures remain in force in almost 30 black townships in the Transvaal, where more than 500 people were killed in August.

The removal of the nationwide emergency imposed in June 1986 was one of the main conditions laid down by the ANC for beginning negotiations on a new constitution, and by the international community for lifting sanctions against Pretoria.

"I think most of the impediments have now been removed, and there is nothing as far as we are concerned standing in the way of negotiations proceeding," Mr de Klerk said. He could give no specific timetable for the negotiations, but reaffirmed his goal of submitting a draft constitution to a referendum before a general election is due in 1994. Only if negotiations could not be concluded before then would there be another general election under the present parliamentary system, from which blacks are excluded.

Mr de Klerk denounced plans by the far-right Conservative Party to stage a campaign of civil disobedience in protest against the government's reforms. "I think there is a general sense of outrage at the irresponsible attitude of the Conservative Party with regard to disruption of (National Party) meetings, and unlawful actions such as withholding taxes," he said. He added that he would deal with this matter "very fully" a few

hours later, in an address to the Transvaal congress of his party. Fighting between Zulu followers of the Natal-based Inkatha Freedom Party and Xhosa-speaking township dwellers who broadly support the ANC has abated after massive security operations, but sporadic clashes are continuing.

Meanwhile, three white men have been arrested in connection with a gun attack on a bus in Natal last week in which six blacks were killed and 27 injured. Two of the suspects are members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, a paramilitary group opposed to the reform process. However, police believe it was a non-political act of revenge for an attack by members of a fanatical black religious sect in Durban in which eight whites were stabbed.

Mr Vlok said yesterday that no evidence had emerged of any mysterious "third force" which was fomenting violence in black communities.

Salvador rebels launch attacks after deadlock in peace talks

From TOM GIBBS IN SAN SALVADOR

LEFT-WING rebels mortared the main military airbase and hit other targets around the capital on Wednesday night in the first heavy fighting in the city in months.

The thud of mortar shells, followed by several hours of rocketing and strafing by air force helicopters and planes, caused alarm as people thought the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front rebels were launching another offensive.

But the fighting died down and was not of the intensity of last November, when rebels occupied large areas of San Salvador for over a week, provoking the heaviest fighting of the 11-year-old civil war.

The army reported that the rebels fired homemade explosives into Illopango airbase, damaging a helicopter and wounding a mechanic. The base was sealed off

and there was no independent confirmation of casualties. The rebels also attacked army positions in the north and east of the city.

In a government statement, broadcast over national radio stations early yesterday, President Cristiani's right-wing government said the attacks showed the rebels lacked the will to find a negotiated solution to the civil war.

Last month UN-sponsored peace talks between the two sides reached deadlock over rebel demands for a purge and eventual dissolution of the armed forces. More talks are scheduled for next month and the rebels have repeatedly said they will step up fighting to try to force concessions from the government.

Rebel sources say any new offensive will be very different from last November, involving

more guerrilla attacks on military targets. But an offensive would probably sabotage rebel efforts to force a change in Washington's policy towards El Salvador.

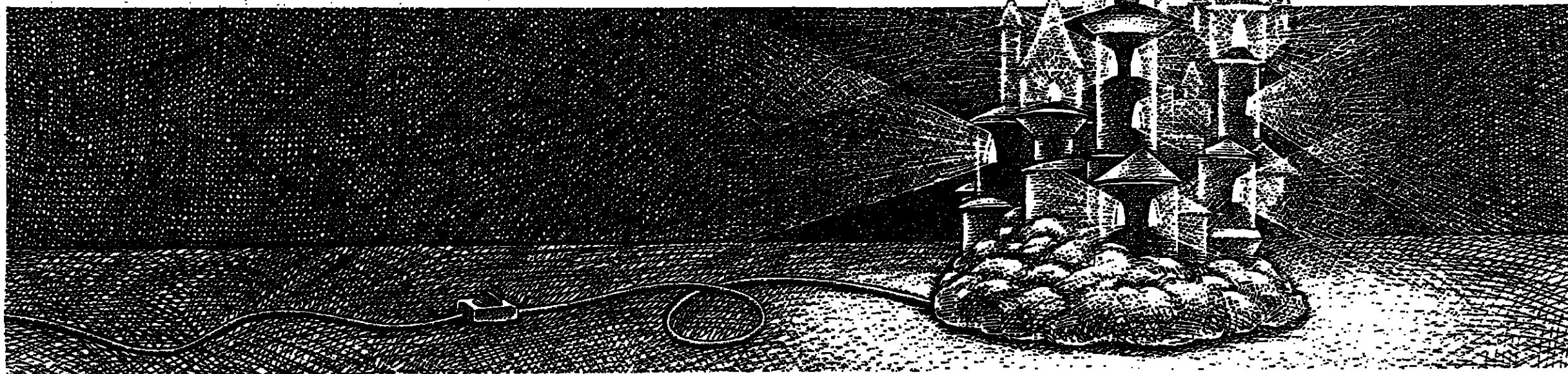
Angered by lack of progress in investigating last November's murders of six Jesuit priests, congressmen are due to vote any day on proposals to withhold half of the \$85 million (£44.7 million) military aid package. But the aid would be restored if the rebels launched an offensive which threatens the government of President Cristiani. The US has given more than \$4 billion in aid to El Salvador since the start of the war.

In the short term, prospects for a peaceful settlement are slim as both sides appear to believe they have the military advantage. No one is willing to give in while the war, which has cost more than 70,000 lives, remains a stalemate.

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12

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Their name is froth

Philip Howard

Fame is the spurt of scum on top of society. We are obsessed with celebrity. Widely (well pretty widely) popular television shows consist solely of a small circus of personalities flattered and being flattered by a presenter, who is jolly nearly as famous as they are.

The audience screams with delight at being privileged to attend such a meeting of celebrities. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some appear on *The South Bank Show*. There is an artificial elite of personalities who are famous merely for being famous. These are the ones who baffle Wogan with their smug banalities, and appear relentlessly on the covers of colour mags. There is even a new magazine devoted entirely to flattering colour pictures and obsequious text about persons with no apparent claim to fame — except that they are already, well, famous.

Star-worship used to be thought of as the American vice. On his visits to America, Dickens was amazed by the crowds who shamelessly followed him down the street just to stare, or pressed up just to touch him. Perhaps it was the insecurity of emigrants and ex-colonialists wanting to make contact with the fame and sophistication they had left behind in Europe. Well, we have caught the vice over here now, encouraged by the deplorable custom of walkabouts by politicians and other self-important celebrities. To think that one gains anything by touching a well known personality is primitive sympathetic magic that which doctors would approve of.

During a visit to Australia, the Queen Mother found herself surrounded by a group of celebrity-hungry Australians. Still smiling graciously as the circle pressed closer round her, she murmured: "Please don't touch the exhibits."

A celebrity is a person who works hard to become well known, and then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognised. Quite a lot of it is our fault in the media. Many journalists are celebrities themselves, who get their kicks by rubbing shoulders with the famous. So we have devised for ourselves the Humpty Dumpty rule that the only people worth doing a "profile" of, or putting a big mug-shot of on the front of our colour mags, are celebrities who are already instantly recognisable. It is a dangerous myth that everybody has one book in them. But it is true that a good writer can find an interesting story in anybody, a good snapper can take an interesting picture of anybody. I simply do not want to read yet another profile of or childhood of some "A Lavatory in the Life of" or celebrity who has been done a thousand times before. It would be much more interesting to read the story of or see the picture of an unknown. But then, I am notoriously deficient of what we worship as news sense in the ink trade.

Our society is not unique in its celeb-mania. We have just caught it worse. At a triumph in ancient Rome, at least they had a slave riding in the chariot with the triumphant general, murmuring "Remember, you're only a poor mortal sod, like everybody else", and other apotropaic (supposed to turn away bad luck) sentiments. And behind him marched his soldiers, singing obscene and insulting apotropaic verses. (I bet the centurions saw to it that they weren't too apotropaic.) What is so awful about our celeb-worship is that its practitioners and audience take it seriously. Perhaps we should get the modern equivalent of a slave (a cleaner?) to wander across the Michael Aspel set, brushing and muttering: "Never heard of any of them, and they're rubbish."

Even our word for fame is ambivalent in its roots. Our society seems to think that fame is an unmitigated good. Andy Warhol said: "In future, everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes." He got a certain amount of fame, and the money that goes with it. And a lot of good it did to that debauched and talented maniac. All that fame meant originally was news. It is related to the Greek *pheme*, a voice, and the Oscan *faumat*, "he said". The early Latin uses of *fama* are all pejorative, undesirable: a malicious report, rumour, notoriety. Only quite late, when the republic had passed into the imperial system run by hype and publicity, did fame acquire the positive meaning of glory and renown, something to be desired and envied above all things.

The Greeks, a cleverer and more democratically inclined race than the Romans, were sounder on fame than the Romans. In his funeral oration on the Athenians killed in their war against Sparta in 430 BC, Pericles said: "The greatest glory is to be least talked about by men, whether they are praising you or criticising you." I agree he was referring to women at the time, but the Greeks had a way of cutting their male celebrities down to size also. You could argue a case that the Athenians lost their independence, because their democracy could not tolerate anybody, even if he had some talent, being famous for more than 15 minutes. There is a lot to be said for not being known to the readers of *Helix* or the viewers of *Wogan*.

When Auden was a young writer, some celeb-sniffing journal asked him what effect fame would have upon him, should he be so lucky. He thought a bit, and replied: "I believe that I would always wear my carpet slippers." And when he became famous, he always did wear his slippers, even when the rest of him was in evening dress (somewhat crumpled). Being allowed to wear slippers all the time is the only lasting benefit of the modern glory of celebrity.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I chose a good week to come down to Provence. I could hardly have chosen a better. All I could have chosen better was my wardrobe. I should have brought a trenchcoat.

Not for the weather, although this is unquestionably trenchcoat weather. As a matter of fact, it is oisilish weather. Gumbouts are *de rigueur*. Sou-westers are not *de trop*. It has been raining solid for two days. The word is not solidly: there is nothing adverbial about this stuff. It is a continuous sheet. It looks like clingfilm. From time to time, men get up from the marble tables of the Café du Midi, where I am scribbling this, and they walk into the street and vanish. The others stare after them.

I feel your brow crinkle. How on earth could this be a good week to come down to Provence? Especially for an Englishman seeking a shaft of warm sunlight, a bit of a paddle, an *al fresco* oyster or two?

Because of John Cairncross, that's how. John Cairncross has made it a singularly good week to be an Englishman in Provence. To show you just how good, let me tell you what I reply when the boules players ask me what I am doing here in the Café du Midi. I reply: "I have come in from the cold." This makes them laugh. It is not easy to make a boules-finalist laugh when he has been staring at the rain for two days. Not that it is an uproarious laugh, it is more of a knowing laugh; a conspiratorial laugh, even. But it is a laugh.

It goes with last Tuesday's headline in *Nice-Matin*. The headline ran: "Un Espion Qui s'agit Au Chaud." Odd to see one's domestic clichés appropriated. Like, too, the subhead: "Le cinquième homme retrouvé." It had never occurred to me that the French knew about the *cinquième homme*, or even, come to that, the other *quatre*.

It is remarkable how this latest judder of the old farago has generated local relief. St Antonin is a fair few kilometres from here across the Var, but animated discussion of the affair has driven even the boules final from the preoccupation of this village's café society. I have

pondered this phenomenon long and hard, and I have reached the only satisfactory conclusion. It is because what John Cairncross was describing himself as was a writer.

Seventy-eight per cent of the English residential population of Provence describe themselves as writers. No café is without its moody Englishman sucking a ballpoint and wiping Fernand rings off his exercise book, no day goes past without a baffled stationer struggling to decode those English croaks and gestures deployed in the attempt to describe what Tippi-Ex is. By day, you cannot hear the cicadas for the clatter of the Olivettis, and as dusk descends you can look out across the valleys and see the pretty twinkling of a hundred word-processor screens, ported out to the terrace of a creative spirits' lounge, or a covey of writers to cobbler a paragraph or two beside their glowing kins.

Now, it is not that none of them is any good, nor that none of them has ever finished anything, because some of them may be and some of them may have; what matters is that nobody has ever heard of them. Provence trembles with fierce parochial pride: each village vaunts its view, its belfry, its cycling *équipe*, its restaurant, its olive oil, its ornamental horse-trough. To vaunt its writer is its dream. It would nail up signs declaring: *Bienvenue à St Quoi, Village Littéraire, Ses Poètes, Ses Romanciers*. Chests would swell, tourists would flock, cash registers would ring.

It does not happen. Provence gets precious few literary lions. Provence gets 20,000 Englishmen called, more or less, John Cairncross. It glares at them as they amble the streets, refusing to give literary prizes or fill bookshop windows.

But suppose they were not writers at all. Suppose this were merely a cover for something immeasurably more glamorous. This week, St Antonin has become the most famous village in Provence. That, surely, is why the patron of le Café du Midi bought me, unpremeditatedly, a cognac. He thinks I might be *le sixième homme*. If I wore a trenchcoat, he'd be convinced.

Barbara Amiel says that people are far too ready to accept conventional wisdom

The emperor's new stratagem

There are always some issues about which it is socially impossible to hold a dissenting view. The medical giants of the 19th century, for example, knew that self-abuse led to insanity. After the repeal of the Corn Laws, being in favour of them was like being against gravity. As Arthur Koestler pointed out in *The Ghost in the Machine*, some dogmas — even in the hard sciences — must be believed if one is not to be considered mad.

Most current controversies, such as membership of the exchange-rate mechanism, the British Medical Association report on pesticides, and policies on global warming, require complex economic and scientific knowledge that only a handful of people possess. This means that most of our responses are based on gut feelings. The gut is a fine instrument for digestion, but as far as I know it has never actually surpassed cerebral activity.

When a certain kind of dogmatism is blown in the wind, there is not much one can do about it. Only a few days ago the chief of the Downing Street policy unit, Brian Griffiths, was saying he was firmly opposed to the ERM. By now he must be counting his eels and keeping quiet. There may

be seven people in parliament who understand all that the ERM entails, but who will be able to pick them out from the other hundred blustering in next week's debate? My gut tells me that when businessmen push for entry into the ERM on the ground that it removes risk from their entrepreneurial activities, we should be cautious and suspicious, but that is only a gut reaction.

Reaction to the BMA's report this week on pesticides in food and drink, however, ought to be a little more cerebral. The BBC Six O'Clock News concluded its summary of the report with a commentator's sombre warning to the nation that "the onus of proof must be reversed" in order to put the consumer's interests before those of the agro-chemical industry. This reminds me of the Queen of Hearts' "Sentence first, verdict afterwards", and Alice's response, "Stuff and nonsense". Of course we should investigate any risk to health, but it is exorbitant to ban approved pesticides without a shred of epidemiological evidence.

Water pollution has been a threat as long as human beings have existed. "And all the waters that were in the river," the Old Testament tells us, "were turned

to blood and the fish that was in the river died and the river stank." Scientists have pointed out that this Biblical occurrence was probably the sort of bloom of red algae not uncommon today. At the beginning of this century, deaths in cities from water-borne typhoid were running high. The water has been cleaned up, pesticides have improved our food production, human beings are bigger, healthier and live longer. But the disaster lobby flourishes.

In August, Channel 4 showed Hilary Lawson's documentary *The Greenhouse Conspiracy*, which methodically examined the evidence for global warming and concluded, most persuasively, that there was no evidence for the phenomenon. The ecological lobby mounted furious attacks on Mr Lawson, full of sound and fury, if not substance. Curiously, no political party took up the programme, which, after all, concerns a major world issue. "Once you get a dogma and it is running," says Mr Lawson, "the social consensus is so strong that people don't resort to facts any more. Those who supported global warming made wild accusations. We had used the wrong data. We were going to be sued. But none of the

accusations against the programme have been shown to be true." Part of the human condition seems to be a need to exist with impending doom. This is often satisfied by a scientific theory of the moment. Some aspects of environmentalism have become quasi-political movements infused with almost metaphysical views about human sin. Large numbers of people disappointed by the collapse of socialism as a social theory have defected to the environmental camp, where they find spiritual solace in recycling bottles or legislating against fossil fuels. One cannot dismiss everything environmentalists say, just as one cannot dismiss everything socialists say, but most environmental campaigners I have encountered would not understand a scientific theory if it fell on their heads. They become activists solely because some scientific theory coincides with their world view.

We believe, often naively as Koestler pointed out, that science "knows". But as many academics in the field will tell you, the world of science is no more — and no less — about absolute truths than most other areas of human activity. Scientists have different theories and competing models of what the future holds. Research grants and

prestige hinge on success. The model that wins is presented to the world as the definitive account of what will happen. "The global warming theory," says Mr Lawson, "came out of the climatology departments. In the programme, I indicated there were possible vested interests here, and why in the past they supported other disaster scenarios such as the impending ice age."

Time and fashion will take care of many of these models. In a few years we shall discover whether the ERM plays economic havoc or brings us new prosperity. One must not make the mistake of saying that every notion that gains popularity in an era is wrong, opposing the Zeitgeist is not proof that one is on the side of truth. But anyone being sceptical about global warming and the ERM, to mention only two dogmas of our time (one might also mention opposition to nuclear energy, and belief that the community charge is iniquitous), runs the risk of being regarded as a lunatic. Still, I take refuge in Samuel Johnson's words: "There are ten thousand stout fellows in the city of London," he said, "ready to fight to the death against Papery, though they know not whether it be a man or a horse."

Macmillan: a vindication that came too late

Harold Macmillan died four years ago with the imputation of a diabolical war crime, allegedly concealed for more than 40 years, still overshadowing his reputation. Widowed and alone in his "fortress" at Birch Grove, forced to watch the slow death of Maurice, his only son, the last Victorian prime minister endured this mental purgatory in virtual silence.

The publication of the Cowgill report should banish any lingering suspicions about Macmillan's role in the repatriation by the British army and subsequent deaths of some 70,000 Cossacks and Yugoslavs in 1945. Whether Nikolai Tolstoy will now at last retract is another matter.

Count Tolstoy has never withdrawn the accusation that Macmillan, having knowingly dispatched thousands of Cossack émigrés and anti-Tito Yugoslavs to their deaths in contravention of Yalta, then conspired with a few officers and civil servants to cover his tracks by destroying evidence. Now that the documents have been found, and it is clear that Macmillan's superiors knew as much as or more than he did, Count Tolstoy's most damaging insinuation also falls.

In a private letter to Macmillan's official biographer, Alistair Horne, Count Tolstoy was prepared to admit in 1988 that his "innuendo" that Macmillan had been blackmailed by Stalin's NKVD was false. He has never responded to Mr Horne's challenge to make a public retraction, and he refused to do so yesterday.

Count Tolstoy says he is "rewriting" his book *The Minister and the Massacres* to take account of the mass of documentary evidence accumulated by Brigadier Cowgill, Lord Brimelow and Christopher Booker to refute his conspiracy theory. But what is there to rewrite? Count Tolstoy no longer has a case against Macmillan or against the officers of 5th Corps, including Lord Aldington, who was the only one to see Count Tolstoy. Unless he can bring himself to offer apologies to those he accused, even though some are dead, he must expect his own long campaign to be scrutinised.



The Cossacks were at the heart of Tolstoy's campaign, but the evidence has been found wanting

Admirably energetic as Count Tolstoy was in bringing the fate of the repatriated prisoners into the public eye, his work seems to have been driven by a passion for scapegoats and conspiracies. "A murder requires a murderer, and a conspiracy a conspirator. Somewhere I felt there existed a veiled figure who was aware of my fruitless attempts to uncover his identity," Count Tolstoy wrote in 1986, explaining how he had come to point the finger at Macmillan. These seem less the sentiments of a historian than an admission that the writer's judgment was warped by his obsession with blaming Allied soldiers, diplomats and politicians for the crimes of Stalin and Tito.

The truth, according to Cowgill, is that the "veiled figure" was woefully unprepared for Count Tolstoy's accusation, first made in 1978, that he had deliberately handed over non-Soviet Cossacks. Apart from his own diaries, which he did not conceal, Macmillan had no documentary evidence with which to counter the allegations, which became progressively more sensational as the years went by.

Mr Horne recalls many occasions on which he discussed the events of May 1945 with the blind old man. Unable to publish until

Daniel Johnson on the minister, the massacres and a flawed campaign



after his subject's death, Horne testifies to the perplexity during the early Eighties of Macmillan's supporters, none of whom was in a position to refute Count Tolstoy. Indeed, only after Cowgill's ma-

terial became available could Horne write his account of Macmillan's role in Austria in the revised edition of his first volume.

Macmillan was, in Horne's words, "devastated and distressed". His attempt to obtain documents from Sir Robert Armstrong, then head of the civil service, failed: it took devoted researchers like Mr Cowgill to track down the evidence. Advised that a libel suit would have been intolerably taxing — as the action brought by the much younger Lord Aldington against Count Tolstoy was to prove — his submission to cross-examination on television was a brave, if futile, attempt to turn the tables.

Macmillan's ancient feud with the press, which had always credited him with infinite deviousness, encouraged many journalists, including (before he embarked on his enquiry) Christopher Booker, to believe Count Tolstoy. Interviewing an unprepared Macmillan in 1984, Ludovic Kennedy relied entirely on Count Tolstoy's tendentious interpretation. Closely quizzed, Macmillan was made to appear evasive: "We had our orders... under the Yalta agreement."

The interrogation failed in its object. As Cowgill shows, Mac-

millan was telling the truth: that he had merely advised officers on the ground that Allied policy under the Yalta agreement was to hand back the Cossacks, and he had, like everyone else, been unaware that large numbers of them were Russian émigrés.

Cowgill explains how the rigid hierarchy of the British army made improbable any unauthorised initiative by Macmillan and 5th Corps. With hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, the distinction between Soviet and non-Soviet Cossacks was appreciated late, though not too late for the British to refuse to hand over hundreds, perhaps thousands, of émigrés to the Red Army.

Yalta was unpopular with all those obliged to implement it. But the unknown number of British prisoners then in Soviet hands must have been paramount, while the need to avoid open conflict with Tito determined the policy of the Western Allies towards those Yugoslavs who surrendered to them. Field Marshal Alexander, the supreme commander, spoke of the return of the Yugoslavs to Tito as a "military necessity", adding that he had not been able to deal with them as he would have liked.

Once a conspiracy is dismissed, one's view of the repatriations depends on whether one believes in the fundamental decency of those who bore this dreadful responsibility. I met Macmillan only once, when he was a guest of Lord Dacre at Peterhouse in 1981. He ran rings around academics a quarter of his age. What impressed me was his integrity. In 1980 he said, in another context: "If you don't believe in God, all you have to believe in is decency... decency is very good. Better decent than indecent. But I don't think it's enough."

That is not the testimony of a criminal, a liar or a coward. Harold Macmillan knew that he had behaved as decently as anybody in 1945. It was indeed "not enough", but he deserved better than to die, like Hamlet's father, "no reckoning made". Thanks to the Cowgill committee, that reckoning has vindicated him once and for all.

A fresh draught of Porter

The American conductor John McGlinn has won an epic legal contest for the right to record the score of a Cole Porter ballet that has not been heard for almost 70 years. He plans to record the music, composed by Porter in 1923 for the Swedish Ballet, to be of the highest quality, in time for the centenary of the composer's birth next year.

The commission was for a ballet "on an American subject". Porter came up with *Within the Quota*, the tale of a Swedish immigrant who came to New York to live the American dream. But the company was disbanded after the piece was commissioned, and the score was presumed lost, allegedly causing Porter to remark: "My first attempt to be respectable must remain in limbo forever."

In the Sixties the work was found at the Dance Museum of Stockholm, and music companies began wrangling over the recording rights. A lengthy court battle involving the Porter family estate ensued. Finally, last week, McGlinn, who has previously recorded versions of Porter's *Anything Goes* and *Showboat* using opera singers, heard that he has secured the recording rights. The release of the recording with the London Sinfonietta should prove the highlight of the centenary celebrations.

"It's his only real symphonic work, and it could easily prove even more popular than George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*," says McGlinn. "It's a wonderful,

delicate kaleidoscope of jazz influences." The work contains one number, "The Sweetheart of the World", apparently dedicated to Mary Pickford, which McGlinn believes will become a standard.

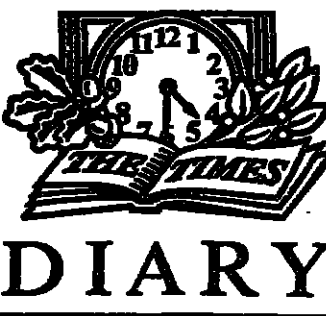
● A sense of European history is a wonderful thing. The Economic and Social Committee of the EC, which advises the council of ministers, has been electing new members. President Manóvian proposed a Machiavelli, the ballot was supervised by Signor Raphael, and the official scrutineer was Mr Strauss. Among the unsuccessful candidates for the committee was a Mr Kafka.

Off the rails

British Rail was delighted with the impression it was making on Roger Freeman, the junior transport minister, during a recent fact-finding tour of the proposed Kings Cross redevelopment site. With the project likely to cost £5 billion, BR is naturally anxious to keep on the right side of the government.

The tour ended with minister and officials standing outside the listed Great Northern Hotel, the preservation of which intrudes upon the redevelopment plans. One BR official, emboldened by the general success of the tour, told Freeman: "We want to demolish it but some ruddy, meddling woman at English Heritage is trying to prevent us."

The meddling woman is none other than Freeman's wife, Jennifer, an architectural historian and member of the London advisory board of the heritage group. Ever the gentleman, Freeman refrained from comment. "It



was I who blushed," he said later. "I did not have the heart to tell him, although I gather the truth came out soon after."

Moscow revisionism

Plans to take the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Moscow Gold* to the Soviet Union are well-advanced, but as events there continue to move at breathtaking speed, the play is being continuously revised by authors Howard Brenton and



Tariq Ali. Indeed the Soviets can have little idea of just what it is they are buying.

So far, however, the rapidly changing script has not deterred the Soviets. The Russian ambassador gave the Kremlin a favourable report on the play's opening, and five senior Soviet theatre critics, with the full backing of the Soviet leader, will visit the Barbican later this month to give their professional opinions. If they are suitably impressed, David Calder, who plays Gorbachev, and the entire London cast of 33 will be flying in the new year to the Soviet Union where the play will be performed for a Russian audience in English.

Whether the latest revisions will commend themselves to the Soviet leader remains to be seen. This week's addition is a line shouted by Boris Yeltsin: "I should have got that peace prize. What have you ever done for peace in this country?"

Graces adjourned

How long will Casanova's *The Three Graces* continue their desultory dance in the foyer of the V&A while the interested parties attempt to resolve their future? The latest episode in this long-running saga was on July 18, when the barristers gathered in the High Court to thrash out its status under listed building regulations.

On one side sat the representative of the owners, a company based in the Cayman Islands which claims that the Tavistock family legally removed the great neoclassical work from Woburn Abbey in 1985. On the other side perched SAVE Britain's Heritage,

which believes that the removal was not legal and which initiated the judicial review. In the middle was a Treasury barrister representing Chris Patten, the environment secretary, who had somewhat ambiguously confirmed that the statue was listed, but that it was also a chattel, and its removal thus legal.

As the Treasury barrister stood up, there was a sharp intake of breath from the respective parties. But instead of pronouncing mightily, the barrister merely asked for time so that the minister could make a "fresh decision". He was granted 21 days while further evidence was collected.

Now, 90 days on, we are still waiting, and the confusion continues. SAVE has been told the court has not yet received papers from Allen & Overy, the owners' solicitors. Allen & Overy say it is not they who must produce the papers, but a "third party", presumed to be the Woburn Abbey estate, and that they have indeed been produced. "If there are papers, neither we nor English Heritage have received copies, as we are legally entitled to," says a spokesman for SAVE. The Treasury appears unable to throw any light on the question. A spokesman said simply: "The matter stands adjourned."

● William Cash, one of the most tenacious Tory campaigners against a federal Europe, sat patiently for four hours of the Commons debate this week on the Single European Act before finally being given the chance to speak. "I think that I must be very brief," he said. "But before he could utter another word the clock struck ten, ending the debate. 'I think it's time for me to sit down,'" he concluded.



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AVERTING STAGFLATION

John Major must have stood up at the Mansion House last night a worried man. Yesterday's statistics appeared to show a nation gripped, as so often before, by stagflation. They had unemployment rising for the sixth month in succession, and productivity failing to rise at all. A week ago, the retail price index showed inflation higher than it was when Mrs Thatcher entered office. The earnings figures indicate that underlying inflation is likely to rise further before it falls. The pound has dropped to where it was two weeks ago, before the Treasury mis-timed Britain's entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The annual Mansion House speech is considered the Treasury's most important annual disquisition on the government's economic philosophy. The Chancellor chose yesterday to concentrate only on the technicalities of European monetary union and Callaghan-style exhortations about wages. This approach, now a leitmotif of all ministerial speeches, will make no more impression on workers, managers, investors or voters than it did when the Labour government used it as a substitute for a supply-side economic policy in the 1970s.

The cabinet's economic policy following ERM entry is now at risk from tunnel vision. The claim is that only one valid objective exists for macro-economic policymaking: the reduction of inflation by means of an iron adherence to just one currently fashionable strategy. This strategy has included, successively, fixed monetary targets, medium-term fiscal plans, interest rates and now an internationally determined exchange rate. Known by its critics as the "one club" approach to policy, it has never been more in the ascendant than today.

Governments are absolutely right to seek to control inflation. Rising prices are socially unjust. Countries which tolerate high inflation rates for long periods suffer acute economic, and ultimately political, distress. High inflation cannot somehow buy lower unemployment or faster economic growth in the long run. However, this does not mean that all other objectives should be ignored or overridden in the battle against inflation.

A cardinal principle of Thatcherism was that inflation was caused, not just by monetary

indiscipline, but by inflexibilities and restrictions on the supply side of the economy. These have been tackled — for instance by trade union reform — but only partially. Those other supply side bugbears, rented housing and labour skills, remain largely untouched by Thatcherism.

Now to plunge the economy into recession, to beat an inflation partly caused by supply side inadequacies would be absurd. There is no case for inducing a return to high unemployment and economic stagnation merely to get inflation down by a percentage point or two. In the long term, a continued anti-inflation policy should include further measures to deregulate labour markets, improve industrial infrastructure and achieve a better-trained workforce. Fighting inflation is first and foremost for micro-economics.

The other side of that coin is that macro-economic policy must be directed towards promoting prosperity as well as stable prices. Mr Major continues to suggest that he has only one macro-economic tool — currently the exchange rate — and that this tool is for fighting inflation alone. By thus implying that politicians cannot be responsible for any economic evil other than inflation, Mr Major may try to dodge blame for those other evils, but he also denies government much of its purpose — and Thatcherism much of its crusade.

Unemployment is not just the fault of the trade unions, recession is not just due to over-generous employers, industry is crippled by more than just incompetent managers, the boom and bust of the housing market is due to more than irresponsible borrowers and lenders. Government has a role in all these, and its policies towards them have economic consequences.

Mrs Thatcher's past promises and present demeanour lead the public to expect her to bring down inflation without precipitating a severe recession or high unemployment. She and her ministers cannot start blaming stagflation on employers and trade unions, those familiar demons of Downing Street speech-writers for decades past. The cabinet must use all the tools of monetary, fiscal, credit and exchange-rate policy which are at every government's disposal, a full and rounded armoury. Mr Major should have displayed it last night.

FOR WANT OF A NAIL

Political union is the main item on the agenda for the European Community foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg next Monday. They will have before them grandiose plans for common foreign and security policies, for more powers for the council of ministers, the Commission, the European Court of Justice and the European Parliament. They will be invited to bathe in candylight.

They are more likely to do something different, spending most of their time deciding whether they dare overrule their farm colleagues for the sake of saving a crucial attempt to increase world trade from collapse. The Gatt's four-year Uruguay Round of negotiations to liberalise trade and lay down new and binding rules for settling trade disputes is now seriously imperilled. Success would, among other things, open up trade in services, in which EC businessmen have a deep interest since services account for half the Community's gross national product. Time is running out: the deadline is December. Yet all this week, Gatt delegates from 105 countries have been twiddling their thumbs in Geneva, because the EC missed last Monday's deadline for presenting its position.

The reason is that the EC governments have not had the political guts to discipline their farm ministers. These ministers have so far refused to endorse the Commission's minimalistic package for reducing farm price supports, protectionism and export subsidies. Given the risk of trade wars if these negotiations break down, such latitude for agriculture, which accounts for a mere 3 per cent of the EC's GNP, is not just myopic, but blind folly.

Today the farm ministers meet for the third time in less than a fortnight. The Commission's proposal for a 30 per cent cut in subsidies already falls far short of a commitment to eliminate the market distortions of the common agricultural policy. The Americans are demanding 75 per cent cuts in price supports and 90 per cent in export subsidies within ten years. Others go still further.

So desperate is the Commission for ministerial agreement that it is expected to sweeten the pill still further with promises of a system

of cash compensation. Britain, which rightly resists, will be offered the sop of "a fresh approach" to the CAP, at some unspecified future date. Even so, led by Germany's Ignaz Kiechle, the hardliners may still hold out. Germany's foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, whose awe of his farmers has been magnified by next month's general election, may insist on Monday that foreign ministers pass the buck to the EC summit in Rome on October 27. Gatt would have to wait.

The question posed by this farce is clear: how can the Twelve seriously dream of a common foreign policy when for months they have let the farm lobby sabotage the one patently urgent foreign policy question on the global agenda? The Italian presidency, supported by France and Germany, argues that the Community's bickering over the Gulf demonstrates not the pitfalls of a common foreign policy, but the need for it. The EC once needed a common agricultural policy. It has one, the policy is worse than useless and is well on the way to collapse.

There is nothing abstract about the question. The inter-governmental conference on political union starts in December. An Italian discussion paper suggests that the Western European Union should be "merged" into the EC, creating the basis for a common defence policy. Single EC forces would be deployed in emergencies such as the Gulf (on recent showing, none would be dispatched). Each EC nation would agree to act only in ways "consistent with the foreign and security policies of the union". For Italy's prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, the logical consequence would be an EC permanent seat, with veto power, on the United Nations Security Council, replacing France and Britain.

How high a price in political paralysis should be paid for "political union"? The same paralysis that now afflicts agricultural union? Britain has yet to get out its thinking on political union. Neglect is not a policy. The government must articulate its rumoured scepticism, and should use the EC's indecision on Gatt and aversion to free trade to bring its European colleagues rudely to earth.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Noise annoys. It is one of the most pervasively irritating of pollutants. Noise seeps, or blasts, from everywhere, with wearing, energy-sapping effects. Between 1973 and 1988, formal complaints to local authorities rose by more than 800 per cent. Cars, railways, aeroplanes, motorways and factories have become quieter mechanically than they used to be. But because there are more of them, noise still increases.

The government's response, published yesterday, is to propose extending the scope of already available powers against noise pollution. To reject the criminal solution is right. In Britain, noise is not a criminal matter. Most public complaints are not about industrial noise, but domestic nuisances such as amplified music and barking dogs, which lead themselves to a civil solution. In countries as disparate as Switzerland and New Zealand, the police can take direct action, entering premises and confiscating noise-producing equipment. Here, the responsibility lies with local authorities' environmental health officers.

There it should remain: in Britain a knock on the door in the middle of the night should rarely come from a policeman. As the government's report on noise concludes, present legislation is robust enough. New penalties are not needed to deter. Failure to comply with 14-day noise abatement notices

can already lead to fines of up to £20,000, or even six months' imprisonment.

The problem lies elsewhere. To be of value, penalties must work quickly. This is almost impossible when dealing with house parties, or people playing large stereo equipment too loudly. The penalties must also be imposed. The report proposes ways to ensure as far as possible that nuisance laws are applied as widely as possible. Car alarms, for example, would have to cut out automatically after 30 seconds. Local authorities would be required to carry out their responsibilities, providing 24-hour cover by environmental officers, and not, as many do now, simply turning a deaf ear to complaints.

But governmental solutions, whether national or local, are not the only responses to noise pollution. Individuals bear responsibility too. Those who listen to personal stereos on trains, for instance, should buy sets with less leaky headphones. Car engines function worse, not better, for excessive revving. Parents can not only try to induce a respect for quiet in their children, they can stop shouting in restaurants themselves. For perfect silence, all must wait for the tomb. But in a world that is unavoidably noisy, there is a duty on us all to be quiet. That's nothing.

Roads damage to prehistoric sites

From the President of the Prehistoric Society

Sir, Your report (October 16) that Cecil Parkinson has denounced English Heritage for publishing "an entirely speculative assessment" of the likely damage to archaeological sites from new road schemes raises anew the question of where responsibility lies for rescue archaeology.

English Heritage's estimate that over 800 known archaeological sites are likely to be disturbed, damaged or destroyed by the Department of Transport's motorway and trunk roads programme is based on a detailed analysis of county sites and monuments records and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments' national archaeological record as well as on case studies of particular road schemes.

Independent archaeological opinion, as represented by the Prehistoric Society (whose council has raised the question yesterday) believes that this seriously underestimates the potential impact of the roads programme on the nation's archaeological heritage. Indeed, where road routes have been assessed in advance of construction the density of sites revealed has often surprised the professional archaeologists themselves. But, regardless of the precise scale of the potential impact, our concern is that adequate provision should be made for archaeological assessment and exploratory excavation, before the exact routes of new roads are decided, thus minimising both site destruction and rescue costs.

The Department of Transport's present provision of £500,000 per annum for rescue archaeology arising from road development demonstrates a welcome willingness to accept, in principle, some responsibility for archaeological investigations, but it falls far short of the total needed just to assess, let alone excavate, the known sites likely to be affected by the roads programme (a sum which English Heritage estimates at over £70 million).

Developers in the private sector now commonly accept responsibility for a large proportion of the archaeological costs arising from their projects. Surely the Department of Transport should do the same and increase very substantially the proportion of the road-development budget that is provided for rescue archaeology? If they do not, the price of road development will include the destruction of many hundreds of archaeological sites and the loss of the knowledge of our past that they can reveal.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARRIS, President,
The Prehistoric Society,
University of London,
Institute of Archaeology,
31-34 Gordon Square, WC1,
October 18.

Customer protection

From Mr James Woodward-Nutt

Sir, Recent liquidations of companies selling goods and services to the public have again raised the vexed question of the protection of customers' prepayments. The present situation is long overdue for reform; the consumer is regarded as an unsecured creditor, who in practice is unlikely to get any refund of his money after the preferential creditors have been paid out.

Our federation believes that such prepayments should not be used by traders to finance their operations, but should by law be lodged in a separate bank account, and held there in trust for the customer until the goods are delivered. Such an account should not be regarded as part of the assets of the company in the event of an insolvency, and customers' moneys could be returned.

Operation of prepayment accounts would be straightforward, and likely to be cheaper than bonding, as traders could gain interest on the account and might even be able to borrow against the security of orders received.

The Office of Fair Trading in their recent report on the carpet and furniture trades state that they have been calling without result for the industry to introduce a scheme for protection of prepayments since 1986. If traders will not take action, they say, legislation may be the only answer.

We believe that action is now overdue, and that consumers should no longer be subjected to the unjustified and unnecessary risk of losing their money in this way.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WOODWARD-NUTT
(Chairman),
National Federation of Consumer Groups,
12 Mosley Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Veterinary research

From Mr Roger R. Cook

Sir, The Science and Engineering Research Council (report, October 2) has criticised the Government for not spending enough on research. In animal medicine this threatens to drive the remaining activity overseas.

Under the doctrine of "full industry funding" this small industry (annual turnover £170 million) is expected to find £2 million per year to fund the licensing of products before they are put on the market. The money is partly raised through a tax on company turnover (not profit) and partly through fees on licence applications. The fee for a major application is £12,000; the equivalent

Clergy's right to freehold tenure

From the Reverend John Wynburne

Sir, Proposals to abolish the "parson's freehold" (report, October 15) should proceed with caution for three reasons. First it is a domestic matter of church reform that should be given a low priority on our agenda at a time when we seek a spiritual renewal which is not mainly about structures but about engaging with the unbelief of the world and making God real and findable in a nation that has largely forgotten him.

Secondly, to appoint clergy on a limited tenure and apply the same criteria for effectiveness and performance as those in secular jobs is to seriously misunderstand the vocation of ministry. The model of ministry we need to rediscover in our day is that of servanthood but it must be a free servanthood and not one that is in any way inhibited by contractual arrangements.

Thirdly, many people today have lost the skills or have never been given the example of how to sustain long-lasting relationships. It is this witness to a life-long commitment that is undermined by putting ministry on a contractual basis of limited tenure.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WYNBURNE,
The Vicarage,
Camberley Parish Church,
286 London Road,
Camberley, Surrey,
October 16.

Europe's countryside

From Mr Graham Wynne

Sir, I read with interest your report on the move to end clergy freehold and introduce fixed-term appointments. I read with even more interest the reported clergy concern that they might feel under pressure rather than follow their consciences.

Since ordination in 1978 I have had three appointments in South-west. In none of them, two curacies and one as team vicar, have I had the so-called security of freehold and in my new appointment I am going to a parish with a suspended benefice, so once again

I will not have the freehold. At no stage have I ever felt insecure in my home or constrained by my bishops in what I say or do in my ministry.

No, Sir, I share the concern of many that the freehold is a constraint on the Church's mission and should be removed as soon as possible.

Yours,
ANDREW D. WAKEFIELD,
55 Alwyne Road,
Wimbledon, SW19,
October 16.

From the Reverend John W. Latham

Sir, The clergy freehold situation is an anomaly when compared to other professions. This is because no such comparison can be made: it is not, in theory, a paid profession but a relationship (a theory that is upheld by her or she being paid a mere "stipend" of £1,000, however much this has to be incremented for practical purposes, via the Church Commissioners).

There are, obviously, cases where the relationship is not all that it should be; the fault can be on either side, or on both. Yet there are also situations where the relationship is good but the results (in terms of growth and output) slight. This could be because the cleric, however holy, is apparently ineffective, and this, in turn, is because he is a pastor and not an evangelist or prophet.

To alter the freehold situation needs more consideration of the whole question of whether there is a threefold ministry of bishop, priest and deacon, or a fourfold ministry at each of those levels: that of pastor or prophet or teacher or evangelist, and of how long those various types of person need to be in a parish for their work to be truly effective. A pastor cannot easily "wipe the dust off his feet" as an evangelist can, let alone have it wiped off for him: love constrains him to persist with the relationship.

Yours sincerely,
J. W. LATHAM,
The Vicarage,
The Avenue,
Flare, Northampton.

CAP support schemes because of their scale, location or methods of production.

For the uplands and marginal areas of Europe, north and south, the prospects under the single European market of 1992 and CAP price cuts are of increasing redundancy and dependence on income aids. Abandonment of traditional farming systems is almost always harmful to the environment.

There has to be a radical rethink of CAP price policy. The European Community has to develop a price policy for agriculture which is sensitive to environmental concerns. It should reward those farms whose practices provide the environment the public increasingly demand. Price support should thus be conditional on farmers demonstrating a benefit to the countryside. This would deflect the effects of price cuts away from those farmers whose existence is essential to maintain the fabric of our countryside.

Yours etc.,
GRAHAM WYNNE
(Director of conservation),
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge,
Sandy, Bedfordshire,
October 17.

Pulling rank

From Mr Felix Barker

Sir, With the death of Irene Seznick (Obituaries, October 12) I feel free to relate a little anecdote about her which the Oliviers asked me not to use when I was writing their biography. Miss Seznick, a zealous producer in defiance of playwrights, came into conflict with Laurence Olivier when he was directing Vivien Leigh in *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1949. She thought he was making too many changes to Tennessee Williams's script.

During a heated argument a member of Olivier's staff took her to one side and said curtly: "You should bear in mind that the Oliviers are the royal family of the British stage."

To this Irene Seznick, whose father was Louis B. Mayer, the MGM Hollywood tycoon, made the icy reply: "And may I remind you that I am the daughter of the censor."

"Surely," I argued, Irene Seznick would only be amused for the clash of temperaments and her remark to be recalled. "No, she would not," said Olivier.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
FELIX BARKER,
Watermill House,
Benenden, Kent,
October 12.

Teaching standards

From Mr R. A. Phillips

Sir, Mr Orr (October 15) advocates the return to 1920s teaching methods. I suffer from dyslexia, and was only diagnosed as such at the age of 14. I have no doubts that had the standards of the 1920s been in force I would have left school without a single exam pass.

The fact that I now have a degree in civil engineering and have the confidence to write this letter is due to modern teaching methods, with a little help from the latest in word-processor technology.

The world we now live in has little room for human robots capable of only performing mindless, repetitive and menial tasks. We have mechanical robots and machines that invariably do the job better and cheaper. However, as yet there is no computer that can reason in the same way that the human brain can. Should not education be teaching our children to think for themselves and discover why $12 \times 12 = 144$, rather than learning it as if it were some abstract date in history?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. PHILLIPS,
174 Effra Road,
Wimbledon, SW19,
October 15.

Education for good eating

From Dr Brigid Allen

Sir, If the government is to educate people to eat well and healthily (Sir Francis Avery Jones, October 11), a special effort should be made to reach younger people, the main consumers of "junk" food, whether out of necessity, social conformism or sheer ignorance of any palatable alternative. One way of doing this might be to introduce a broadly-based food studies course into the national curriculum, with the object that it should transcend national culture and unite several disciplines.

It could include, for example, food in history, together with a study of scarcity and famine and their natural and political causes and consequences; ethnic and religious food habits; wild foods and the environment; governmental and supra-governmental food policies (e.g. the CAP) and their results; nutrition and the chemistry of food; and, of course, cookery.

If taught properly, between the ages of seven and 17, this might encourage children to take an unashamed interest in good food, and might even help to undermine the junk-food boom.

Ideally, too, we might perhaps have a National Food Museum and Archive, with displays not only of national produce but of most imported foods, showing their historical provenance and changing uses.

In a country rich with exotic imported foods and with the immigrant cultures which go with these, it is surely blind folly to regard food as a subject unfit for serious study except by those on vocational courses for chefs, hotel managers and dietitians.

Yours faithfully,
BRIGID ALLEN,
Archive Services of Oxford,
47 Ulillar Road,
Wolvercot, Oxford,
October 11.

From Dr D. M. Conning

Sir, Ann Kent's article ("How many food nannies make a healthy nation?", October 11) begins by stating a major fallacy, namely that healthy eating means lean meat, free-range eggs and poultry and organic produce. Only those with more money than sense would adopt such criteria in pursuit of health.

Healthy eating means good nutrition. There is such a variety of food available today, at a price which is as low in relation to spending power as it has ever been, that no one need doubt their ability to achieve good nutrition, provided they know what they are doing.

The greatest impediment to good nutrition is the welter of misleading and oversimplified messages foisted upon the public by those with political ambition or a journalistic career at stake, and the inability of the consumer to discriminate against false prophets. To claim that another layer of bureaucratic control will improve the consumer's choice of food is simply silly.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. CONNING
(Director-General),
The British Nutrition Foundation,
15 Belgrave Square, SW1,
October 12.

Philip Larkin's will

From Mr John Whitehead

Sir, "Happily, Motion and his fellow executors were able to prevent the fulfilment of another of Larkin's wishes, that all his unpublished material be destroyed" (Diary, October 10). Since when has the deliberate flouting of their testator's wishes by his executors been an occasion for happiness rather than for condemnation?

"They sought the advice of a QC, who ruled that the clause in Larkin's will was repugnant." Repugnant to whom or what? And since when has a barrister been in a position to give a ruling, rather than to express a personal opinion?

I have examined Larkin's will and find the clause to be clear and unambiguous. It is not the clause but the executors' decision to disregard Larkin's instructions which seems to me repugnant.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHITEHEAD,
The Coach House,
Munslow,
nr Craven Arms, Shropshire.

Enterprise at 80

From Mr Don Mackridge

Sir, Your third leader on October 13, "The age that withers not", seems to be directed towards me and I am not loth to respond at once.

Last September on my 80th birthday, at a public concert given in this city, Haydn, Mozart and other quartets were played on instruments I had made in my 79th and 80th years. Nothing very remarkable about that (remember Seznick?) except that I had no previous experience in the craft or of any other craft, no tuition, no supervision, no help whatsoever. All from two books.

I like to think that I created a world record for achievement in old age. Could we hear of other Grandmothers exploits, if only to counterbalance the noises being made by the youthful enterprise lobby?

Life begins at 80.
Yours faithfully,
DON MACKRIDGE,
31 St Sidwells Avenue,
Exeter, Devon.

It is the duty of priests to teach the true knowledge of God. People should go to them to learn why, because they are the messengers of the Lord Almighty.

Melchior 27 Oct

BIRTHS

ASBY - On October 12th to Anne (Mrs. C. Asby) and Charles (Mr. C. Asby), a daughter, Louise, a sister for Tristram.

BATES - On October 17th, in the life of Mrs. to Jane (Mrs. Bates) and John (Mr. Bates), a daughter, Helen, a sister for David.

BETLEY - On October 16th to Lucy (Mrs. F. Betley) and James (Mr. F. Betley), a daughter, Charlotte, a sister for James and Lucy.

BROWN - On October 12th to Mrs. Brown and Mr. Brown, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

CLARKE - On October 12th to Mrs. Clarke and Mr. Clarke, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

CONSTANTINE - On October 12th to Mrs. Constantine and Mr. Constantine, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

FOSTER - On October 12th to Mrs. Foster and Mr. Foster, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

MANNING - On October 12th to Mrs. Manning and Mr. Manning, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

MURRAY - On October 12th to Mrs. Murray and Mr. Murray, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

ROBERTS - On October 12th to Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Roberts, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

SMITH - On October 12th to Mrs. Smith and Mr. Smith, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

WILLIAMS - On October 12th to Mrs. Williams and Mr. Williams, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for James and Lucy.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

LUNDA - On October 19th, 1940, at St. Mary's Church, London, the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lunda.

ROBERTS - On October 19th, 1940, at St. Mary's Church, London, the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts.

SMITH - On October 19th, 1940, at St. Mary's Church, London, the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

WILLIAMS - On October 19th, 1940, at St. Mary's Church, London, the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Williams.

DEATHS

BAYTON - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Bayton, aged 85.

CLARKE - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Clarke, aged 85.

CONSTANTINE - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Constantine, aged 85.

FOSTER - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Foster, aged 85.

MANNING - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Manning, aged 85.

MURRAY - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Murray, aged 85.

ROBERTS - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Roberts, aged 85.

SMITH - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Smith, aged 85.

WILLIAMS - On October 17th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the death of Mr. Williams, aged 85.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE CAN HELP YOU FIND LOST BENEFICIARIES

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CHARITY COMMISSION

Notice is given that the Charity Commission has received an application for the registration of a new charity. The charity is a registered charity and its objects are to promote the welfare of the community.

LEGAL NOTICES

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Notice is given that an application has been made to the court for an order of adjudication. The court has granted the order and the applicant is now a creditor of the estate.

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ON THIS DAY

October 19, 1865

Palmerston's last experience in government covered the posts of secretary at war under six governments more than 14 years. He died in office two days before his 81st birthday after a short illness.

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

THE ROYAL THEATRE

Produced by Sir John Gielgud. Directed by Sir John Gielgud. Cast: Sir John Gielgud, Sir John Gielgud, Sir John Gielgud.

THEATRE

THEATRE

THEATRE

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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THEATRE

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

THEATRE

THEATRE

THEATRE

A sound system for keeping quiet

There's a kind of hush all over Scotland, thanks to a way of dealing with noise that could see a stereo in the dock

While Chris Patten, the environment secretary, nurses an incipient headache over the latest recommendation on noise control, published yesterday, the Scots are sleeping peacefully in their beds, enjoying the quiet life and clocking up 60 per cent fewer noise complaints than the rest of the UK.

In Scotland the racket from a neighbour's wild party may be brought to a sudden, blissfully peaceful end when the police unplug the stereo and take it away for evidence. So, if you don't want your CD player or too-loud tube to become Exhibit A it is wise to put a sock in it "when required to do so by a uniformed constable".

Police powers to put a stop to noisy music are tucked away in a piece of uniquely Scottish legislation, the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, which tidied up a rabble of regulations covering everything from selling second hand clothes to controlling sex shops. Section 54 of the act protects Scots in their own homes and in public places from unreasonably loud music and carries a fine of up to £50. The police are at pains to point out that they are anything but party poopers. "We always give people a chance to turn the music down," one officer says. "Often the host will ask us in for a wee drink, but they should realise that it's no joke and usually things calm down quite quickly. And, if all else fails and we have to charge them under Section 54, the record player or whatever is evidence, so we have to take it with us." Simple. The prospect of three months (the approximate time it takes a case to come to court in Scotland) without a stereo might prove more of a deterrent for some than the £50 fine.

But the one-off racket is only part of the din of modern life which Mr Patten's department is seeking to quell. He might do well to look to Edinburgh, where a hush is descending over the city thanks to the effort of the local authority's team of noise abatement experts.

John Stirling, the deputy director of environmental health in Edinburgh, has four officers solely dedicated to the pursuit and elimination of noise. They work on the principle that, at least in your own home, you are entitled to absolute silence. "We operate to what are known as the criteria of

inaudibility, while most English authorities use a standard which allows some level of noise," Mr Stirling says. "However, we have been doing some missionary work on this with English authorities, and some are seeing the light." Wider powers, tougher rules on sound insulation and working closely with the planning authority to prevent noise nuisance are some of the other reasons why Scotland is winning the noise war.

Regular night duties for Mr Stirling's officers take them into the living room of the deafened and despairing: a retired colonel who could follow video films playing in the hotel next door; a fish breeder whose tropical stock vibrated to the thrum of the pub jukebox downstairs; a woman who could fill out a bingo card as the numbers were called in the neighbouring working men's club. However, noisy sound systems make up about a third of the workload, which last year totalled 548 noise complaints.

But does not Edinburgh's tourist trail along the Royal Mile leak music out of every tartan-draped doorway? What of the bagpipers in Princes Street and the cacophony of the Festival? These are considered part of the city's character, and allowed, "although we do set curfews", Mr Stirling says. Roads, building sites and factories are all strictly monitored. Mr Stirling believes in persuasion by case history. Take the shop

with the faulty burglar alarm which went off by mistake so many times that the neighbours tired of calling the police. When the alarm was set off by the fire sprinklers, the place was flooded. But it is not just the big noises that lead to the noise team being called in. There was the vibrating sideboard, for example, victim of a washing machine on fast spin cycle; the crowing of six French cockerels and the "noisy cistern" which was traced to a pensioner's faulty hearing aid.

In London, the environment department has its own problems. A call to its office this week elicited a request for a question to be repeated. The information officer could not hear, she said, over the noise of an electric drill.

JOAN SIMPSON

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Leading article, page 15



Home and away: Jenny Barker with William, youngest of her five sons, and (right) house mother Selma Deacon demonstrating the bed-making art at Port Regis.

Home from boarder country

Caroline Whitlock's last sight of Georgina, her eight-year-old daughter, before she departed for her first term at a Buckinghamshire prep school, was of "a very red face looking out of the window while her elder sister was waving a box of tissues reassuringly". Despite their agreement that "she wouldn't cry when she left", Georgina, like many young boarders before her, arrived at her school in tears.

Will she return home this weekend a more self-assured and independent creature and, if she does, will her mother be pleased? As half-term looms, anxious parents throughout the country are viewing the return of their boarding-school children with a mixture of excitement and apprehension.

When Philippa Brooks's eight-year-old son, Tom, returned from his Berkshire boarding prep for his first exam (long weekend), he was as self-contained as his mother had been over a telephone call from the school's matron, two weeks into term, to say that Tom had fallen out of a tree ("My first reaction was to dash down there, but as he was reportedly fine and enjoying being the centre of attention, I very stoically stayed put"). Mrs Brooks says she expected boarding to make her son more independent, "but it's still another thing to face it. I sensed a

slight distance between us and a lack of openness on his part, although my husband thought I'd imagined this. Occasionally I get concerned about producing one more generation of stiff-upper-lipped schoolboys, but one hopes the good things will rub off, too." Mrs Brooks says she is thrilled by her son's increased confidence and tidiness. "I couldn't believe it when I went up to his room and found his clothes hung beautifully on a hanger. Even his father doesn't always do that." But she is slightly nonplussed by the rapidity of the transformation: "You do hear people say that new boarders change completely in three weeks, but I'd hoped it wouldn't happen that fast."

Some parents are more concerned about parting than boarding-school etiquette would deem reasonable. Joan Douglas, the 47-year-old house mother at Queenswood girls' school in Hertfordshire, recently comforted one tearful mother. "She kept telling her daughter: 'You don't have to stay if you don't want, even though the 11-year-old was reasonably happy about doing so. Even now, this mother is still waiting in England to be close to her child rather than return to her home abroad."

At Queenswood, the complex process of settling in to school life involves housework alongside more academic subjects. Mrs Douglas says she is amazed by the number of new girls who have never lifted a duster before. "Some little girls are appalled to find themselves on back stairs dirty, brushing the steps down, but they all get used to it."

Doubtless, vigorous vacuuming helps dispel homesickness which, Mrs Douglas adds, is perfectly normal. "At the beginning of term I had two little girls sobbing over a box of tissues on my knees. One kept clutching a pencil case and saying, 'My mummy gave me this', as though it were her only memento of home. Now those

With half term near, parents are anxiously waiting to assess the changes wrought by boarding school. Jane Bidder reports

little girls are perfectly happy. It's simply a matter of time."

Jenny Barker has five sons passing through the boarding school system. "It may sound awful but I don't mind them being away," she says. "I like the independence they come back with. Nevertheless, there are times when I have to swallow hard. When my first son, James, boarded at the age of ten, my mother said to me: 'Of course, you realise he's left home now, and it's true. I got quite upset when one of my boys, Oliver, signed his first letter home with his surname.'"

Among the changes in her sons, Mrs Barker has noticed a curious mixture of selfishness and kindness. "At boarding school, they think only of themselves and not of their brothers. They become quite self-orientated, and when home, tend to assume each is the prodigal son and that everyone should do what he wants. At the other extreme, my son Tom - who's just gone to Stowe - remembered his grandmother's birthday the other week, which is quite unusual. Family means more when you're absent." So do material possessions: Mrs Barker's eldest son has had a lock installed on his bedroom door to deter his younger brothers from coming in during his absence.

Short breaks - like half term and exerts - are often more disorientating than long holidays. Mrs Barker's boys often refuse to shed their uniform on returning home, saying it's not worth it as

they have to return in 22 hours, 12 minutes and 22 seconds. "At the end of a long holiday, they never pack their trunks until the last minute. But when they're at school, they love it. Children are like elastic: the more you stretch them, the more they come back."

Mrs Whitlock believes that a short break home is not always long enough for her to re-establish a rapport with her children. "I have to drag school events out of Georgina and then, eventually, am treated to a long story in double Dutch. There's no doubt that you are divorced from their lives because you don't really know what they are doing away. It doesn't upset me too much because I've had time to prepare myself: boarding school was always on the cards."

Her younger daughter's first exam has already indicated character changes. "She was always quiet but now will talk to guests at the table which, before, was a big 'no no'. She also has to make her own top bunk at school so tackles her bed at home, after a fashion. My eldest daughter, Victoria, was a little scatter-brain when she first boarded, but will now put her clothes on a chair at night for at least the first ten days of a holiday."

At Port Regis in Dorset - where Peter Phillips, the Princess Royal's son, is a boarder - Selma Deacon, a housemother, says she sees a greater appreciation of home when pupils return from holidays. "On the other hand, some mothers are saddened by the sudden independence their children acquire. I see a complete transformation during the first fortnight of arrival," Mrs Deacon says. "By then, they've learnt to change clothes three times a day and find out where they're going. They have an air of confidence about them resulting from challenges they've had to meet." Such challenges include changing duvet covers once a week. "It's a nightmare when they first arrive."

David Pritchard, the headmaster at Port Regis, who describes himself as father of 283 offspring, also feels for parents who are bowled over by their children's rapid maturity. "I had one distressed mother last Saturday whose only child didn't want to go home for the weekend."

Weekly boarders will already have been home since the start of term. But Diana West, whose nine-year-old daughter, Katrina, is a weekly girl at a prep school near Rugby, says it can take time for both parents and child to adapt to one set of rules from Monday to Friday and another during weekends and holidays. "Katrina gets confused about what she can or can't do at home and might be surprised if, say, give her a drink of orange when she's used to water at school."

When her daughter first boarded a year ago, Mrs West says she steered herself not to ring the matron until the third day of term. "She was a bit upset when I left so I wanted to give her time to adjust. After that, I didn't ring again." But any hiccups, Mrs West says, are easily outweighed by her daughter's greater sophistication, both in demeanour and vocabulary, although this new maturity also saddens her. "One is always a bit reluctant to realise they can do without you. Consequently, I tend to give her little treats when she's back, like taking her on shopping trips. I suppose one isn't entirely natural during these visits: I often start off by being overly nice."

As half-term ends, there will be the inevitable doom and gloom that Mrs West sees every Sunday night - despite Katrina "loving" school: "There's a sudden depression around tea time. I try to be brisk and jolly: luckily she usually cheers up during the hour's drive back to school. When we get there, Katrina's happy again, but it is rather strange driving home without her."

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Happy to get on with the job

Many of Britain's most successful Asian women have little time for feminism

WHEN Kim Hollis went to work, "You could see the other side thinking, 'Oh isn't she a sweet, pretty little thing?'. And because they'd underestimate me they wouldn't know how to handle it when I hit them. I play on it. I use the fact that I'm feminine to be successful. And no, I'm not a feminist."

Ms Hollis is a barrister and head of her chambers. She is also one of the Asian women who feature in a new book, *The Golden Thread*, by Zerbano Gifford, a Liberal councillor for Harrow and an adviser to both the Prince's Youth Business Trust and to Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats. Anyone searching for stories of downtrodden factory toilers must look elsewhere. "This book is about *shakti*, women power, the strength that Asian women have to offer," Mrs Gifford says. These are accounts of women who shine with success. The net is spread wide: the first Asian bunny girl is here, as is the world's fastest mental arithmetician. There are lawyers, doctors, writers and actresses. None has stood on the sidelines bemoaning her status as a foreigner, none has been deflected by racism or sexism. Most have simply ignored prejudice.

"I didn't stop to look for discrimination," says Jyoti Munsiff, the senior legal adviser at Shell. When that company employed her 21 years ago, she was the first woman in its legal department. "Perhaps I was naive, I do have this optimism about the British. In many ways while they are one of the most racist societies, they are also one of the most just. And India itself can be so segregationist. This image of Asian women being docile is as much an Asian concept as a western one."

Such persistent belief in the docility and pliability of Asian females can be tailored to their advantage. "If my colleagues have given me support, it's because if you behave like a lady, men have like gentlemen," Ms Munsiff says. "They listen to what you say and don't feel threatened."

She and Ms Hollis are not the only ones to deny feminism. For many of these women, the word has overtones of an alien stridency. "I believe in the equality of all human beings and to focus on one particular problem is not necessarily balanced," Ms Munsiff says. "I am worried about women who carry heavy burdens and have no say in their lives. That worries me more than the things western women work themselves up about."

Mrs Gifford disagrees. "One of the things I wanted to say in the book is that while western women have certain images of us, we also stereotype them. I mean we think of feminists as women in dungarees, wearing CND badges and shouting all the time - we fall into exactly the same trap. I am definitely feminist, I think it's pos-

sible to be feminist and feminine." Whether or not the word feminist is applied, achievement is considered possible because of - not in spite of - traditional qualities. "Because we are possibly more thoughtful, less abrasive and aggressive," says Shyama Perera, a television presenter for BBC's Network East, "we will get there in a far more subtle and possibly satisfactory way."

The strength of Asian women is often derived from the greater social freedom of exile. When Shirley Daniel, the only Asian woman headmistress of a mixed comprehensive school in Britain, returned to India in 1969 after some years in Scotland, she was unable to get a teaching job because she was divorced. "India rejected me then so I feel my loyalty is to Britain. I got my chances here. There was blatant racism at first and, as a woman, you've got a double fight on your hands. But if you can deliver the goods in Britain then the message goes round and you'll succeed."

"And Asian women get on and do the job." "I wouldn't dare go to India

right now," admits Katy Mirza, who is due to become a single mother next spring. The first Asian bunny girl is not averse to taboo-breaking, but feels the continent is unprepared for single parenthood. "I haven't met any man yet who will accept me for what I am - a happy blend of East and West. I want to raise my son with that special balance. For me the whole world is equal, so because I project that image I have no racism. Sexism and racism are two items that you can attract to yourself through the wrong image you give out to other people."

Not all the women are starry-eyed. "Maybe it's a mistake to highlight those who haven't experienced prejudice," observes Ms Munsiff uneasily. "For every one of us," says Natasha Bijlani, a doctor at St Bartholomew's Hospital, "there are probably a hundred out there living lives of subjugation."

But positive discrimination, it is agreed, is not the way forward. "I don't think in British society it's necessary," Ms Daniel says. "If there are impediments, there is also the system to fight them." "It's death," agrees Ms Munsiff. "You feed prejudices by introducing positive discrimination. I'd rather it took 20 years longer so that there is no trace of it. It gives people the excuse, before they've even tested you, of denigrating you, and that's the end."

FIONNUALA MCHUGH

© The Golden Thread: Asian Women in Post Raj Britain is published by Pandora Press (£17.95). Proceeds from the book go to Warwick University, where a Centre for Research into Asian Migration is being set up.

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ARTS

BRIEFING

Parisian benefit

BRITISH poets are adding their voices to an international campaign to save the famous Shakespeare & Company bookshop in Paris. Three months ago, fire swept through the first-floor library of the shop, destroying thousands of valuable volumes. The "Great Shakespearean Tragedy" benefit poetry reading, to raise money for restoration of the library, will be held at Sherratt & Hughes bookshop (071-836 6757) in Covent Garden, London WC2, tomorrow evening. Among those taking part are Dannie Abse, Carol Ann Duffy, Eric Mottram, Brian Patten and Carol Rumens.

English on top

FOR the first time in 65 years, an Englishman has been elected president of the International Society of Contemporary Music. The composer Michael Finnis, best known for his surreal reworking of folk-song material, will hold the post for three years. His English predecessor, 65 years ago, was Edward Dent.

Going private

YURI Grigorovich, the veteran supranaturalist of the Bolshoi Ballet, has formed a new company of young dancers. Privately funded, it will bear the name Bolshoi Ballet Grigorovich Company, which cannot be a disadvantage at the box office. It will make its debut touring America next month, with a repertoire including Grigorovich's own *Nutcracker* production. Despite persistent criticisms that he already devotes too little time to the Bolshoi, Grigorovich will continue as director there.



Yuri Grigorovich: new troupe

Last chance

CLOSE your eyes and think of Valhalla if you are attending the last performance of *Siegfried* at the Royal Opera House (071-240 1066) tomorrow. Götz Friedrich's blandly acted staging certainly has inoffensive moments. But Gwyneth Jones, James Morris and René Kollo sing Wagner as well as any around today.

GALLERIES

Jewish seeing or Jewish-looking?

Four shows which pose questions on the nature of Jewishness, and a young abstract painter whose early success reflects his conservatism

Kitaj makes a useful distinction: he is interested, he says, in Jewishness rather than Judaism. This idea runs through most of the Barbican Art Gallery show, *Chagall to Kitaj: Jewish Experience in 20th Century Art*. The questions posed are: how does an artist's Jewishness manifest itself? Should it necessarily be manifest at all? Is there anything wrong with a Jewish painter if his work does not look Jewish? Is "looking Jewish" a matter of subject-matter or style?

In a large show, occupying both floors of the gallery and returning the abortive sculpture court outside to its original purpose, there is virtually no make-weight, and little that seems to be there just to make a political, social or religious point (although, of course, the very fact that the Barbican's "Israel: State of the Art" festival is overwhelmingly concerned with Jewish art is a political point). The variety of art on view is impressive, and so, more subtly, is its consistency. There is also the photography show, *Israel - The Stormy Years*, in the Concourse Gallery.

Chagall to Kitaj is not primarily about Israeli art. Even those artists who count as Israeli come from extremely varied backgrounds. Inevitably the foster-culture rubs off. A Lithuanian/Brazilian artist such as Lasar Segal is bound to be different from the Italian/French Modigliani. The fascination lies in noting the differences yet recognising family resemblances.

But the status of Judaic subject-matter is a recurrent problem. Of

course an artist who frequently paints synagogue scenes or the Yiddish theatre is immediately proclaiming Jewishness. But where does that leave Modigliani? There is no way of knowing from the nudes and portraits in this show that Modigliani was Jewish.

Perhaps Modigliani is included only because he is such a feather in the cap of Jewish art. Elsewhere, Judaic subject-matter seems to be desirable to ensure inclusion. Bomberg and Gertler are there, but not Meninsky, who never painted an overtly Jewish picture. Lasar Segal is in, but not Arthur Segal.

Curiously, some of the earliest pictures here are relatively non-committal: even when the subjects are clearly drawn from Jewish life, the late 19th-century international style evades definition. But then, a predisposition to the kind of turbulent emotion and strong colours normally labelled Expressionism comes into play. Though the German Expressionists numbered few Jews in their ranks, Russian

Expressionism was largely a Jewish invention. The way it developed, through the study of Jewish folk and primitive art, is clearly shown here, providing a background to Chagall, Soutine and Lissitzky.

The most interesting early Israeli artist, Reuven Rubin, with his elegant, slightly Deco figure compositions, is not touched with Expressionism at all, being as cool and stylish as Modigliani.

The Anglo-Jewish artists of the Bomberg generation, further explored in *The Anglo-Jewish Contribution* at the Boundary Gallery, impose themselves even among such distinguished international company. The numerous Ben Shahn encourage second thoughts on this now unfairly ignored artist, and help to keep the continuing Jewish contribution to American art in the forefront.

Inevitably, the Holocaust makes its appearance, but it is tucked away in the middle of the show, and the organisers seem almost to have found it an embarrassment. The prime emphasis is on the authentic Israeli ethos of dynamism, even aggression, and a positive approach to the future. By and large, the show is remarkably cheerful. The Neue Sachlichkeit self-portraits of Felix Nussbaum, who perished in a concentration camp, totally reject pathos, even when he depicts himself with a yellow star and a Jewish identity card in 1943.

And the extraordinary paintings of the Polish Janusz Stern, with their bones and their taliths incor-



Totally rejecting pathos: "Self-Portrait with Jewish Identity Card", 1943, by Felix Nussbaum

porated, may be sinister, but they are not depressive.

The show does not attempt to answer the question of whether the existence of Israel and its thriving national school makes Jewish art

more Jewish or less. In fact, it is hard to isolate anything in the work of the younger Israelis at the Barbican, or for that matter of the Five Artists from Israel showing at Pomeroy Purdy, which positively

has to be Jewish. Might the indefinably Jewish quality in earlier work come from a yearning for the lost homeland?

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

New star's course seems all too predictable

A new star has been hailed. The 24-year-old Ian Davenport has an exhibition at Waddington's. The catalogue introduction by Norman Rosenthal, the Royal Academy's exhibition secretary, is a finely executed clarion call to the art establishment faithful. Yet the paintings are predictable; almost as though they have been designed by a committee of critics yearning for the return of the days when they used to tell artists how to paint.

Davenport drip emulsion house paint from the top to the bottom of the canvas and sometimes horizontally across it. The results could be described in art-speak as an extension of Greenberg's theories that led from Abstract Expressionism to Post-Paint-

ery Abstraction and Minimalism. The artist has produced an ideal Modernist solution. By using a robotically repetitive technique and mundane materials there is not the faintest hint of illustration. The method of production allows for an element of randomness and a touch of seduction.

Davenport has been taught to be oblique. He graduated two years ago from Goldsmiths' College, which has made a virtue of being indirect, circuitous and marginally devious. Disburses? No, but a certain pleasure is taken in the thinness of the borderlines. Other graduates, several of whom also showed at *The British Art Show* earlier this year, have not been able to maintain the tension. The

current exhibition certainly proves that Davenport has a fine sense of balance and an understanding of the way we take or avoid decisions today. The mandarins of the art world are not the only people vulnerable to presentations that display brilliant market analysis, good packaging, but little content.

Such accusations probably will not worry Davenport's many champions. They are likely to be more concerned with the cracks running down "Untitled, Matt Black and Gloss Black", 1990. The use of house paint was intended to add to the smooth efficiency of production, but the cracks throw even the research and presentation into question.

Lance Smith is 16 years older than Davenport, but has

already received far more attention than most "young" artists. His present show, at the Blason, a new Spanish-run gallery near Vauxhall Bridge, is probably his strongest.

There are virtually no signs of the figure in Smith's latest paintings, though there are references to human presence. This has helped give his work a new coherence. There has always been an awkwardness in his work, but it has often appeared too contrived. "Fall", 1988, for instance, may not yet have the controlled impact of a Motherwell or the vigour of a Schnabel, but there is a sense of new purpose.

A distinguished gallery goes often grows through his beard that, "one only finds one good painting in every ten thou-

ALISTAIR HICKS

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

COLOUR FIELDS: The work of Jules Olitski, one of the classic American colour-field artists of the Sixties, has not been seen much since the Atlantic in the last few years. He is painting as brilliantly as ever, with a new tactile vigour. Francis Graham-Dixon, 17-18 Great Sutton Street, London EC1 (071-250 1982), Tues-Sun, 11am-6pm, until November 18.

PART-TIME PAINTER: Renato Tosni, now in his sixties, has never been able to devote himself entirely to painting, though one would never know from his work, which is mysterious, obsessive and highly professional. Fischer Fine Art, 30 King Street, St James's, London SW1 (071 839 3842), Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until November 2.

DRY BONES LIVE: Bryan Kneale is a brilliant draughtsman, and his recent drawings of animal skeletons are breathtakingly beautiful. Now we also have sculptures of the drawings, which are amazing. New Art Centre, 41 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071 235 5841), Mon-Fri, 9.30am-6pm, Sat, 11am-3pm.

OUT OF SCHOOL: The celebrations of Elton's 55th anniversary are spreading briefly to London, via a display of 36 pieces from the College's splendid silver collection, dating from the 16th century. Sotheby's, 34/35 New Bond Street, London W1 (071 408 4167), Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm, Sat, 9.30am-12.30pm, Sun, 12.30-4pm, until October 28.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 50 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act must have

sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be passed on to index cards

and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

RECORDS: ROCK

The return of Whicker man to the World Music trail

PAUL Simon's new album, *The Rhythm of the Saints*, reminds me of the old gag about the anthropologist fighting his way through some remote jungle in search of a lost tribe, only to find at the end of his trek a camera crew already in residence. Still, if it sometimes seems, there are now any number of Western musicians on the World Music trail, it is a situation for which Simon himself must take a large share of the credit.

The release of his last album, *Graceland*, in 1986 had a catalytic impact on the commercial potential of ethnic music the world over. Mainstream audiences seized on the novel yet mellifluous interweaving of South African township jazz with the poignant melodies and unmistakably American lyrics that have long been Simon's stock-in-trade, and soon the vogue for World Music was in full swing.

Now, continuing in his role as the Alan Whicker of rock,

Paul Simon: *The Rhythm of the Saints* (Warner Bros WX 340C)

Simon has attempted the same trick with Brazilian music. But despite the blanket chat show, press and even news coverage that the project has attracted, the results are, perhaps inevitably, rather less startling this time around.

Much of the music is based on the glorious interlocking waves of percussion provided by the indigenous Brazilian groups Olodun (a 14-piece drum troupe) and Uakti (classically trained musicians using percussion instruments made out of industrial piping and the like).

"The Obvious Child" romps along to an insistent side-drum shuffle that sounds almost like a marching band in places, while "Further to Fly" proceeds in a more languid but no less insistent vein with the beat switching on and off a jazzy samba

groove. "She Moves On" has a dark, tropical feel, with an especially rich percussive mix oiled by deep, sensual plunges of the bass line.

Yet, unlike the smooth integration of musical cultures which distinguished *Graceland*, Simon's guitar and vocal parts initially seem too obviously grafted on top of these pulsating foundations. The melodies bed in after repeated listenings, but still lack some of the charm of his previous work.

"Can't Run But", a ghostly refrain built around a bare-boned tuned percussion motif, sounds like an out-take from the last Sting album, and "Born at the Right Time" has a nagging pop chorus of limited appeal.

But if the spoils of his latest cross-cultural excursion now seem relatively commonplace, it is only because Simon is a victim of his own outstanding achievements.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TALKING HEADS

One of the most critically revered bands of all time, Talking Heads has been ahead of the field at almost every turn. As regulars at New York's CBGB club, they quickly established themselves at the epicentre of the American New Wave explosion. Their 1977 debut, *Talking Heads 77*, is a seductive strain of straight-ahead rock, gilded with modest intellectual pretensions and a large dollop of art-school angst. By the turn of the Eighties, they had taken to funk, disco and African rhythms, and in *Remain in Light* (1980) fashioned one of the ground-breaking albums of the decade. The follow-up *Speaking in Tongues* (1983) consolidated their position as the original World Music rock band, and provided their biggest US hit, "Burning Down the House". *Naked* (1988) is a cosmopolitan riot of regional colour, but the band's energies have otherwise become dissipated in a succession of solo ventures, most notably by David Byrne on his album *Rai Momo* (1989).



Vocalist David Byrne

UB40

Snubbed by the purists perhaps, but UB40 remains the most popular reggae band by a mile. The members started out as angry young men, a multi-racial octet operating in tandem with the 2-Tone stable of groups in the Midlands. The early albums, *Signing Off* (1980) and *Present Arms* (1981), while introducing the languid rhythmic intricacies and sophisticated harmonic interplay between horns and voices which became their calling card, are also shot through with rather dated polemics railing against the Thatcher clampdown. Since then, the renovation of old material by other artists has been central to their work. This strategy was inaugurated on the No 1 album, *Labour of Love* (1983), which provided the hits "Red Red Wine", "Many Rivers to Cross" and "Cherry Girl", and others on *Labour of Love II* (1989) adding to a bulging portfolio of chart successes, the band has matured into a quietly dependable pillar of the rock establishment.

NEXT WEEK: U2, Van Halen

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HARDEL: MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS
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RAY COONEY'S "Hugely funny" new play "MADE ME LAUGH MORE THAN ANY COMEDY I HAVE SEEN" IN THE WEST END THIS YEAR

DONALD SINDEN "Brilliant" MICHAEL WILLIAMS "Wonderful" "A deliciously inspired partnership"

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND SUSAN THOMSON
TELEVISION CHOICE: PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE: PETER DAVALLE

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceebees**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Laurie Meyer and Charlie Lee-Phipps
8.50 **Daytime UK**. A preview of the morning's events
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
9.05 **Brainwave**. Quiz show 9.25 **Dish of the Day**. Recipes 9.30 **People**. Today with gardening advice from Plymouth and Devon
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
10.05 **Children's BBC**, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with **Playdays**
10.25 **The Family News** (r) 10.35 **People Today** reports on pets
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a discussion on small businesses going bust 11.45 **Before Noon**. Open chat line to a star guest
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **After Noon**. Travel Show Extra. Penny Junor launches a series of reports on what various resorts were like this summer, and there is a detailed guide to the UK as a place to take your holiday. Under the microscope today are **Megafish** in Mallorca and **Wendydale**
12.20 **Somebody** presented by Jodi Spies and Alan Titchmarsh 12.55 **Regional news** and weather
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 **Neighbours** (Ceebees)
1.50 **Film: Come September** (1981) starring Rock Hudson and Gina Lollobrigida. Rock Hudson doing his decent, solid, upright chap routine again, this time as a millionaire who finds his holiday villa taken over in his absence and used as a hotel by his occasional mistress. Lots of generation gap gags and sex free routines crowd in to the vacant space where the plot should have been. Enjoyable nevertheless. Directed by Robert Mulligan 3.40 **Cartoon**

- 3.50 **Bump**. Animated adventures of a young elephant 3.55 **Comers**. Educational programme for children
4.10 **The Jetsons**. Cartoon
4.35 **Record Breakers**. Yodelling, the world's largest vegetable, the toughest tug of war, 40 years of **Come Dancing** and a student attempt at the world stamp-licking record
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Byker Grove**. Drama serial about a Newcastle youth club, (Ceebees)
5.25 **Neighbours** (r)
(Ceebees). Northern Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 **Inside Uster**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Mike Stuart. Weather
6.30 **Regional News** Magazines
Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Wogan** with Sue Lawley. Among tonight's guests are Julian Lloyd Webber and Bill Wyman
7.30 **Only Fools and Horses**... The Long Legs of the Law. David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst in a repeat of one of the best comedies of the Eighties. This week Rodney's new romance worries Del and Granddad, who are concerned that their cosy existence is being threatened. (Ceebees)
8.00 **Bruce Forsyth's Generators**. Having wandered into the wilderness with the likes of **Play Your Cards Right** and **You Bet**, Bruce has returned to resurrect what was, and patently still is, wholesome family entertainment. (Ceebees)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Marilyn Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 **Casualty**. Say it with Flowers. Ingredients in the plot drama from **Hotby Hospital** include Charlie (Clare Thompson) cracking up with grief at the death of a boyfriend friend. (Ceebees)
10.20 **Omnibus**.
CHOICE: The advertised profile of Gershwin Kellor is postponed until November 2 to make way for a tribute to the multi-talented Leonard



Tribute to Leonard Bernstein (10.20pm)

Bernstein, who died this week. Reflecting Bernstein's achievements as composer, conductor, pianist and broadcaster, this *Omnibus* special includes previously unscreened material of Bernstein talking about his childhood and earliest musical memories. It comes from an interview recorded a few years with Humphrey Burton. Bernstein talks about growing up in Massachusetts, going to concerts by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and his debut with the New York Philharmonic at the age of 25. Bruce Forsyth's *Generators* has a profile of Bernstein, as well as the memories of Michael Tilson Thomas, Jose Carreras, Christa Ludwig, Betty Comden and Adolph Green and Stephen Sondheim
11.20 **Film: Salt** (1982) starring Michael O'Keefe, Karen Allen, James Woods and Peter Fonda. The violent tale of a college student, brainwashed by an obscure cult after a time athletic career. His parents hire a private investigator to track him down. Although spilling over into melodrama, the film holds together because of the topicality of the plot and the mesmerising acting of Woods as the de-programmer. Directed by Ted Kotcheff 1.10am **Weather**

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am**
9.25 **Jeopardy!** The alternative quiz show in which Chris Donat has the answers and the contestants must supply the questions 9.55 **Thames News** and weather
10.00 **The Times**... The Place... Mike Scott hosts a discussion on a topical subject
10.40 **This Morning**. Features and advice on family matters, presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Includes a report on the latest medical techniques to deal with infertility
12.05 **Rainbow**. Educational entertainment for the young 12.25 **Home and Away**. Australian soap 12.55 **Thames News** and weather
1.00 **News at One** with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 **Contacts**. Televised version of the personal column which gives viewers the chance to contact one another and make new friends and acquaintances (r)
1.50 **A Country Practice**. Australian soap based around a community health centre 2.50 **Van Can Cook**. The art of oriental cuisine demonstrated by chef Martin Van
2.50 **Tell the Truth**. Fred Dineage asks a celebrity panel to guess which of the contestants is being economical with the truth in their claim to fame 3.15 **News headlines** 3.20 **Thames News** and weather
3.55 **Pandora**. British cartoon with the bear from darkest Peru 4.25 **How 2**. Carol Vorderman, Gareth Jones and Fred Dineage host the programme which answers young people's questions 4.45 **Knightmare**. The all-girl team continues in its quest in this challenging fantasy game
5.10 **Home and Away** (r)

- 5.40 **News** with Nicholas Owen. Weather
5.55 **Crime Monthly Preview** presented by Paul Ross
6.00 **8 O'Clock Live** presented by Frank Bough and Jeni Barnett. Includes guest Jennifer Beale of *Flashdance* fame and a report on the latest food facts
7.00 **Family Fortunes**. In this week's round of the family quiz the Farrells from Sussex meet the Samuels family of Leicester. Introduced by comedian Les Dennis
7.30 **Coronation Street**. More drama and intrigue with the regulars of the Rovers Return (Oracle)
8.00 **The Piglet Files**. Slight comedy series, with Nicholas Lyndhurst doing his usual gormless twirl routine as an academic who is hired by the M5. This week he is brought into action to thwart a politician's plan to amalgamate the M5 with M6. With Clive Francis (Oracle)
8.30 **Murder, She Wrote: Mirror, Mirror on the Wall**. Feature-length episode of the series about a thriller writer who is constantly stumbling over corpses and solving murders. When a mystery writer whose popularity is on the wane unexpectedly visits Jessica Fletcher, she becomes the centre of a murder case that may have been triggered by her presence. Starring Angela Lansbury and Jean Simmons
10.00 **News at Ten** with Alistair Burnet and Sandy Gall. Weather 10.35 **Thames News** and weather
10.40 **Crime Monthly** presented by Paul Ross. An insight into how a case was solved because of a squeaky garage door and a taped telephone call to the fire brigade. Ralph Jones goes undercover with police at Heathrow airport, the only "patch" where the British police are armed. Plus a spotlight on the shooting of Brendan Carey in the Prince of Wales pub, Islington, and how police are trying to identify a woman killed on the M25 in July

- 11.40 **Jake and the Fatman** starring William Conrad and Joe Penny. A smooth private investigator and an overweight DA form an unlikely pair of crimefighters. McCabe's curiosity is aroused when a young heiress claims to have escaped from her abductor who had demanded \$2 million ransom. His only clues are a cup of coffee and a pool of mud
12.35 **Sam Cruel Hearts and Coronets**. How Baroness Susan de Smetpet systematically stripped her aged aunt of all her wealth, a crime which earned her a prison sentence and brought shame to her aristocratic family
1.05 **The James Whale Show**. More features on the strange and bizarre, with viewers invited to phone in with their opinions on controversial subjects
2.05 **Cinema Attractions**. The latest news, behind-the-scenes features and reports from Tinseltown
2.35 **European Skateboarding Championships** from Glasgow
3.05 **The Fugitive: The Evil Men Do**. David Janssen stars as Richard Kimble, an innocent man pursued as a murderer. In gratitude to Kimble for saving his life, a farm owner and ex-underdog figure vows to repay the debt - immediately before the arrival of Lt. Gerard, who is leading the case for Kimble's arrest (r). (Oracle)
4.00 **The Monkees**. The Sixties pop group is involved in more musical mayhem. They have to convince Davy that he is not the next Jake La Motta after a crooked promoter organises a boxing career for him (r) (Oracle)
4.30 **The Partridge Family**. Fun with the family band with the loopyhouse smiles. A young heartbreaker joins Laurie and Keith's school, and Laurie is in danger of being just another conquest (r). (Oracle)
5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

- 8.00 **News**
8.15 **Westminster**. The BBC parliamentary team with a round-up of business from the Lords and Commons
9.00 **Daytime on Two**: emergency first aid advice 9.10 **For Teachers** on infant science 9.40 **Opposition** to the community charge 10.00 **Another chapter of Badger Girl** 10.20 **Contrasting** the lifestyle of the wild salmon with that of the farmed variety 10.40 **A song about water** 11.00 **Health education** 11.15 **CGSE German** 11.45 **Technical problems** involved in moving heavy loads 12.00 **Aesthetics and design** 12.20 **Simon Scarrow's** tribute to his actor brother David, who died in a fall from *Beachy Head* in 1988 12.50 **Taboo words** of the English language 1.20 **Postmen Pat** 1.44 **The Englishman**
2.00 **News** and weather followed by **Words and Pictures** (r)
2.15 **Sport on Friday** introduced by Helen Rolleson. Snooker: more action from the Rothmans grand prix; and Football: a review of the mid-week European championship games
3.30 **Tot Clee**. Includes a visit to the Motor Industry Research Association (r)
6.00 **Film: The Far Country** (1954)
CHOICE: During the Fifties the career of James Stewart was transformed by a series of fine Westerns he made with the director



Gaudie to machine: James Stewart (6.00pm)

Anthony Mann. Stewart had hardly touched the Western before, but he now became one of its most important actors. Starting with *Winchester 73*, the Mann films the memory of Stewart as a gaucy and amiable boy-next-door and presented a harder and more knowing character, often embarking on an obsessive quest for revenge. The theme surfaced in *The Far Country* as Stewart, taking a herd of cattle to an Alaskan gold-mining town, reacts to the death of his partner (Walter Brennan). But in this case the revenge motif serves a wider theme as Stewart's cowboy starts as a self-interested loner but comes to accept the collective needs of the community. As usual, Mann makes graphic use of landscape and there is strong support from Brennan, and from John McIntyre as the genial villain 7.30 **Animation Now: Harlem Wednesday**. A look at Harlem (r)

- 7.45 **What the Papers Say** with freelance writer Anthony Howard
8.00 **Public Eye: Network Child Abuse**. This first in a new series of the current affairs programme looks at the increasing evidence of organised child abuse in the UK
8.30 **The Ornamental Kitchen Garden**. A visit to the Marchioness of Salisbury's Elizabethan knot garden at Hatfield House. Includes Geoff Hamilton to plant a partner. (Ceebees)
9.00 **Indefinite Evidence: Final Payment**. Ludovic Kennedy with another case decided by forensic evidence. This one involves the death of a child's parents in Australia. (Ceebees)
9.30 **Monty Python's Flying Circus**. More kooky and surreal sketches including historical impersonations (r). (Ceebees)
10.00 **Have I Got News for You?** Ian Haplo and Paul Merton with another battle between teams drawn from the worlds of journalism and humour
10.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Snow 11.15 **Weather**
11.20 **Snooker**. Quarter-final action from the Rothmans grand prix
12.20am **Film: Secret Beyond the Door** (1948). Joan Bennett as a young heiress who marries a moody millionaire (Michael Redgrave) after a whirlwind romance in Mexico. She discovers that he has a death fixation and fears she will be the next victim. A tired effort from all concerned, creating very little suspense. Directed by Fritz Lang. Ends at 2.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Art of Landscape**. Beautiful natural images accompanied by soothing music
6.20 **Business Daily**
6.30 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **Schools**
12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sue Campbell
12.30 **Business Daily**. Financial and business news service
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school educational fun
2.00 **Sportspoints**. Profiles of golfer Greg Norman and former motorcycling champion who live together (Telecast)
2.30 **Channel 4 Racing** from Newmarket. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 and 4.15 races
4.30 **Fifteen-To-One**. Fast-moving quiz show
5.00 **I Love Lucy** (b/w). Vintage comedy starring Lucille Ball
5.30 **American Football: Red 42**. Gary Imlich and Mick Luckhurst present the latest news from the gridiron
6.00 **The World**. Includes interviews with actor Emilio Estevez, son of Martin Sheen and brother of Charlie, and the Northumbrian band the Charlatans
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. John Snow and Zennab Badawi. Weather
7.50 **First Reaction**. Giles Smith, critic of *The Independent*, discusses the new album *Red*, *Hot and Blue*, proceeds from which will be donated to AIDS research

- 6.00 **Brookside**. Down-to-earth soap set in the suburbs of Liverpool. (Telecast)
8.30 **Hard News**. This first of a new series includes an interview with Lord McGregor, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission
9.00 **Frank's Place**. Run-of-the-mill comedy about a staid college professor who inherits a New Orleans restaurant
9.30 **Calendar**. The second programme for autumn includes some exotic tropical plants in the greenhouse. (Telecast)
10.00 **The Golden Girls**. Award-winning American comedy series revolving around four old female senior citizens who live together (Telecast)
10.30 **Clive Anderson Talks Back**. With Jeffrey Archer, Harry Enfield and the insect-eating Dick Van-Wright
11.05 **Jonathan Ross Presents for One Week Only** - David Lynch.
CHOICE: Ross's profile upstages the BBC appraisal of Lynch to be screened tomorrow in *Moving Pictures*, but generously publicising Lynch's television show, *Twin Peaks*, which goes out next week on BBC2. Lynch's boldly unorthodox approach to filmmaking has not inspired Ross to mount anything but the most conventional of documentaries. It follows the familiar pattern of a clip from Lynch's latest film and a clutch of admiring quotes, before telling us that he was born in Montana in 1946 and taking it chronologically from there. Ross is not the most penetrating of interviewers when it comes to teasing out



Against the grain: David Lynch (11.05pm)

Lynch's complex sensibilities but he offers a workmanlike guide to a career that has consistently challenged the Hollywood mainstream. The exception was *Dune*, a commercial and critical failure at the time but ripe for reassessment. The stance comes immediately after this programme. 12.05am **Film: Dune** (1984) starring Kyle MacLachlan, Francesca Annis, Jose Ferrer, Sian Phillips, Jürgen Prochnow, Dean Cain, Max von Sydow and Sting. Visually inventive science fiction epic, based on Frank Herbert's cult novel, which becomes bogged down by its own complexity. Director David Lynch tries hard to impose his personal signature but seems overawed by the huge, \$50 million, budget. 2.35 **The World**. See 6.00. Ends at 3.30

ITV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 **Van Can** 2.20-2.50 **The Channel 4 Daily** 3.00-3.30 **News** 3.40-3.50 **Channel 4** 4.00-4.30 **Channel 4** 4.40-5.10 **Channel 4** 5.20-5.50 **Channel 4** 6.00-6.30 **Channel 4** 6.40-7.10 **Channel 4** 7.20-7.50 **Channel 4** 8.00-8.30 **Channel 4** 8.40-9.10 **Channel 4** 9.20-9.50 **Channel 4** 10.00-10.30 **Channel 4** 10.40-11.10 **Channel 4** 11.20-11.50 **Channel 4** 12.00-12.30 **Channel 4** 12.40-1.10 **Channel 4** 1.20-1.50 **Channel 4** 1.60-1.90 **Channel 4** 2.00-2.30 **Channel 4** 2.40-3.10 **Channel 4** 3.20-3.50 **Channel 4** 4.00-4.30 **Channel 4** 4.40-5.10 **Channel 4** 5.20-5.50 **Channel 4** 6.00-6.30 **Channel 4** 6.40-7.10 **Channel 4** 7.20-7.50 **Channel 4** 8.00-8.30 **Channel 4** 8.40-9.10 **Channel 4** 9.20-9.50 **Channel 4** 10.00-10.30 **Channel 4** 10.40-11.10 **Channel 4** 11.20-11.50 **Channel 4** 12.00-12.30 **Channel 4** 12.40-1.10 **Channel 4** 1.20-1.50 **Channel 4** 1.60-1.90 **Channel 4** 2.00-2.30 **Channel 4** 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Mentality of the going rate will cost us markets

IT SEEMED likely that 1990 would be an uncomfortable year and so it has proved. Economic policy has been dominated by the struggle to get control of the inflationary pressures that were evident in the large current account deficit and, of course, in the inflation figures themselves.

The cause of the problem was excess demand. And the remedy that we put in place was a firm monetary policy that is now clearly working.

All the monetary aggregates now tell the same story. Annual growth of narrow money, M0, has been reduced in every month since April and is now within its target range. M4 growth has fallen steadily throughout this year to reach its lowest point since June 1987. We have seen a welcome recovery in the savings ratio from 4.9 per cent in the third quarter of 1988 to 7.7 per cent in the second quarter of 1990.

Earlier this month sterling entered the exchange-rate mechanism. This event marks a significant development in the conduct of monetary policy. The news was greeted with rapture in some quarters, and with deepest gloom in others. Neither of these extreme reactions seems to me to be right. What entry to the ERM mounts to is an extra dimension to our monetary discipline. I have no doubt it will bring benefits for the UK. But I do not agree with those who argue that the ERM will bring those benefits in the short-term and then have long-term costs. Precisely the reverse is true. Entry will require tough action in the short-term to ensure low inflation thereafter. The disciplines of the system will force both the government and the private sector to make difficult choices.

For the private sector, I am thinking in particular of the control of costs including labour costs. The days have gone in which businesses could simply negotiate around the RPI and assume that a falling exchange rate would keep them competitive with their European rivals. Keeping our costs in line with, or lower than, those elsewhere in the community is now essential.

And it is, of course, the directors and managers of British companies who must ensure that they stay competitive. The government cannot do it for them. It will be no use businessmen bewailing the

Extracts from the speech of John Major, the chancellor

dominance of the so-called "going rate" in general while meekly accepting it as an unavoidable cost in their own firms. Within the ERM, that approach will lead to only one result: lost markets, redundancies, plant closures, and ultimately company failures.

I put the point starkly because I want to ensure that the message is fully understood. It is as relevant to pay in the boardroom as it is to pay on the shop-floor. Before we could join the ERM, we needed to be sure that inflationary pressures were on the way down. As usual, there has been a lag between the peak in economic growth and the peak in inflation — indeed, on this occasion that lag has been particularly long. But — although oil prices have yet to feed through fully into the headline figures — it is now clear that inflation itself is near its peak and will fall markedly over the next year. There was, therefore, no further reason for delay in entering the mechanism. And it was, of course, those very same conditions that indicated that a reduction in interest rates was now appropriate.

I decided, therefore, to announce the two moves at the same time. In doing so, I was influenced by the risk that a reduction in interest rates before entry into the ERM would have been misunderstood as a signal that I was seeking to weaken the exchange rate in readiness for joining — which I was not; or alternatively, that entry was a long way off — which it was

ERM cannot oblige us to accept the imposition of a single currency

not. Both interpretations might have weakened the prospect of entering at a central rate that would make our counter-inflationary intentions clear from the start. I took the view, therefore, that the markets should be aware of both those factors at the same time — hence the joint announcement. To be frank, I thought that was the most

straightforward and sensible way to proceed, and I still do. We decided to enter with 6 per cent margins to give sterling an opportunity to settle down in view of the uncertainties which necessarily attend an important market development of this kind. As circumstances permit, we will move to the narrow 2½ per cent bands.

Returning to inflation, the indications are that this will fall throughout next year, and especially quickly from April onwards as both the underlying rate improves and some of the unusual adverse factors drop out. However, notwithstanding this improved prospect, interest rates will be reduced further only when it is clearly safe to do so.

The ERM also has implications for fiscal policy. Throughout the 1980s, fiscal policy has been used to support monetary policy and it is crucial we maintain this approach in the future.

Some commentators have suggested that interest rates are, in some sense, allocated to maintaining the exchange rate and are therefore not available to help achieve other objectives. They argue therefore that in consequence membership will require a more active fiscal policy. I have no doubt that it would be a huge mistake to return to frequent mini-budgets and fiscal fine-tuning. It is not necessary, its effects are not wholly predictable, and, in my limited experience, one Autumn Statement and one Budget a year are quite sufficient. However, the overall fiscal balance will be important in the future just as, in practice, it has been in the past.

As the economy has slowed, it has become inevitable that large cyclical Budget surpluses would diminish. The boom in corporation tax collection has come to an end for the time being, and, as I indicated to the Treasury committee of the House of Commons some years ago, an economic slowdown inevitably brings renewed pressures on public expenditure, which may no longer fall as a proportion of GDP. But I do not believe we should change our medium-term objective of a balanced Budget. That would not make sense.

To summarise, there is no doubt about the problems of 1990. I do not promise that 1991 will be easy either. We will continue to need tight monetary and fiscal policies



and our commitment to the ERM will reinforce that discipline on industry and on Government. But we will, I am sure, begin to see the benefits in a substantial fall in inflation. That will be important progress. And with inflation back under control, British business will be well placed to take advantage of the enormous opportunities which our policies have created.

Europe In recent years we have played an important and constructive role in shaping the community. I have no doubt that we will continue to do so in the future. This is vital to the future of the City and of industry. Of course, whenever we voice doubts about a proposal emanating from Brussels, there will be those ready to call us half-hearted Europeans or accuse us of trying to disrupt the community. Equally, whenever we put forward positive proposals to make Europe work better, there will be those who accuse us of pre-emptive surrender. Both are wrong.

Our record as good Europeans is excellent. It was Britain

that was instrumental in seeking a Budget deal that kept the community viable; Britain which has helped remove the worst excesses of the CAP; and Britain which has implemented more single market measures than all but one of our community partners. Many so-called "good Europeans" are in practice very bad Europeans when it comes to opening up their markets to competition.

Entry will require tough action in the short-term to ensure low inflation

I believe that an important test of Britain's commitment to Europe is our desire to see the community evolve together. We do not want to see it split into two tiers with an inner core speeding ahead. This would not strengthen the EC. And it could damage it gravely. It is against that background that I hope our partners will judge our proposals for the development of EMU beyond stage 1.

In recent months I have been encouraged by the direc-

tion that debate has taken. Increasingly the focus of attention is on the practical steps after stage 1 as our partners in Europe recognise that the prerequisite to further integration is convergence of economic performance. Moreover, there is an inherent absurdity in arguing about the length or date of stage 2 before determining what should be in it.

Our proposals for a European Monetary Fund and a hard ecu are well known. They provide an evolutionary approach based on the market and choice. They recognise that economic convergence is far from satisfactory. For the present, differences between the relative performances of the 12 are striking. Annual rates of inflation in the community range from 2½ to 22 per cent; short-term interest rates range from 8 to 18 per cent; and public sector budget balances range from a surplus of 3 per cent of GDP to a deficit of over 17 per cent. And the degree of flexibility in the economies of member states varies considerably.

As we draw nearer to the inter-governmental conference in December, we shall

Entry to ERM not an easing of policy

Extracts from the speech by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England

WE DID, of course, combine ERM entry with a one percentage point cut in interest rates. Perhaps the first thing to make clear about this is that, when taking the decision we knew that, while the real economy was softening and inflationary pressures were easing, the inflation rate itself had not yet peaked.

Because of this, some in the financial markets said the interest rate cut was premature. To such doubters I would make three points: first, the most recent economic and monetary data provide clear evidence that the conditions necessary to reduce inflation are now coming into place; secondly, at 14 per cent, interest rates remain high; and thirdly, the continuing restraining influence of high real interest rates has been considerably reinforced by ERM entry itself.

It would be quite wrong to see the steps taken a fortnight ago as designed to bring about any significant easing of our policy stance.

Others have said that the interest rate reduction was both too small and too late that we should do more, and quickly. But I am afraid that that would not be compatible with getting inflation decisively lower.

In fact, complaints about policy, from whatever source, would have been more appropriate when monetary conditions became too relaxed.

For some time now, we have been working to reduce the unsustainable rate of growth of domestic demand that was allowed to develop by low interest rates a few years ago. Easy credit conditions not only fuelled demand, but did so partly by encouraging firms and individuals to take on debt which, in the event, they have struggled to support — and in some sad cases have failed.

The lessons of excessive floating-rate borrowing were learned painfully by the developing world about ten years ago, and are no less true for British firms now, or indeed for British households.

Our determination to maintain a tight policy, while I am afraid not allowing any immediate easing in this part.

All I can say is that it is necessary to get us back on track — to restore the conditions for sustainable non-inflationary growth.

We must correct the consequences of past mistakes, and I am confident that we will be helped in this by the discipline of the ERM — a discipline on policy-makers, on lenders and borrowers, and on wage bargainers.

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Chairman resigns at Courtney

DAVID Peacock, non-executive chairman and a director since 1972 of Courtney Pope, the loss-making shopping, lighting and engineering group, has resigned, becoming the fourth board member to leave the company recently.

Mr Peacock, who has been in poor health, is to be replaced by Ronnie Aitken, the company recovery specialist.

Last month, the company announced a pre-tax loss of £3.58 million, after giving warning in July of a £2 million loss. Stephen Lewis, chief executive, who joined the company in 1989, said a financial and strategic restructuring proposal had been presented to Courtney Pope's banks. The shares ended the day unchanged at 33p.

Jarvis profits slip to £708,000

Jarvis, the construction and property group, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits from £1.07 million to £708,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover slipped from £35 million to £34 million.

The company said profits for the year to end-December will be less than those for the nine months to end-December 1989 as a result of the property recession.

Earnings per share fell from 3.8p to 2.6p. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.825p and there is a scrip dividend alternative. Shares held at 51p.

Linton Park up

Improved productivity and higher prices from tea estates helped Linton Park to pre-tax profits of £5.48 million in the six months to end-June, against £4.1 million last time. Turnover was £61.6 million, against £71.8 million previously. Interest payments rose from £1.47 million to £1.77 million. Earnings per share jumped from 6.6p to 13.6p. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p. There was an extraordinary credit of £2.56 million.

CBI urges long-term reforms to poll tax and business rate

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR



John Banham: reforms have not achieved objectives

LONGER-term reforms to the uniform business rate and the community charge have been proposed by the Confederation of British Industry, which said that the government's reforms of local government financing had failed to increase local accountability.

Many companies have been unhappy with the UBR, arguing that it will increase their costs so much that some them will be forced out of business.

The CBI supports the objectives behind the community charge and the uniform business rate. John Banham, CBI director-general, said yesterday that there must be no return, as the Labour party seemed to be proposing, to anything like the rates system, or "the days of taxation without representation for business, and representation without taxation for householders".

But Mr Banham told the Institute of Revenues, Rating

and Valuation conference in Scarborough: "It is clear that the reforms have not achieved their original objective of strengthening local accountability. As a result, the retail price index has been boosted by an extra one percentage point, fuelling additional wage demands."

In the short term, next year's UBR should reflect estimated future general price inflation, not estimated inflation on local authority costs, or the September RPI figure.

Mr Banham said that the government should now consider reforming the system in the longer term by ending general grants to local authorities, requiring businesses to meet the costs of only those services from which they directly benefited, by making the poll tax pay in full only costs under direct local authority control, and by improving local authority efficiency.

West officials met yesterday to announce London as their new international base.

They said they were pressing the trade department for the right to build their own fixed links and interconnect local cable telephony franchises with other network operators such as British Rail Telecom (BRT), the newly formed telecommunications subsidiary of British Rail.

US West has told the government that setting up a third national public operator would be "irrelevant".

The company is also urging the government to end the need for cable companies to get BT or Mercury approval before offering telephony services.

US firm calls for cable curb on BT

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Telecom should be banned from offering video and television services down the telephone lines for 15 years if the government is committed to competition in local telephony and cable television services, according to an American rival.

Officials of US West, the American regional telephone company with a shareholding in 14 UK cable franchises, said the restriction was needed to allow cable companies to develop competitive networks and services.

The call, which is part of the company's submission to the government review of the existing BT/Mercury duopoly, may reflect the views of many American phone companies with UK interests. Senior US

West officials met yesterday to announce London as their new international base.

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Shares in Caird fall over fears on bid

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Caird Group, the waste disposal company, fell another 11p to 59p amid speculation that Severn Trent will be allowed by the Takeover Panel to withdraw its 100p-a-share cash offer.

Caird's advisers yesterday met the Takeover Panel to argue that Severn Trent should be obliged to press on with the bid even though the company has conceded that profits for the 18 months to end-December will not exceed £7.2 million before tax.

Severn Trent's offer, which values Caird at £78 million, was conditional on the company reaffirming its original profit forecast of £8.5 million.

Severn Trent is also objecting to the inclusion within the forecast of profits of £1.5 million from property sales and has expressed concern about an extraordinary charge of £3 million in respect of anticipated losses and closure costs within Caird's venture property development companies.

Caird is basing its case on the company's anticipated performance during the final six months of the 18-month period.

Caird has recommended Severn Trent's offer for the ordinary shares but rejected the offer for the convertible preference shares.

The company is expected to appeal if the Takeover Panel rules in favour of Severn Trent.

Severn Trent has acquired 29.9 per cent of the company's ordinary shares at 100p a share and is likely to be left nursing substantial paper losses if the offer is withdrawn.

Peter Linacre, currently chairman and chief executive of Caird, has said he will relinquish his dual role if the company retains its independence, and the board is seeking to appoint a non-executive chairman.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US property blow for NatWest subsidiary

THE dire state of the property market in America's North-east is continuing to cause damage to National Westminster Bancorp, the NatWest group's American subsidiary.

It suffered a net loss of \$36.3 million in the third quarter after making further provisions of \$102 million against loan losses. The loss was down from \$106 million in the April-June quarter and from \$114 million a year ago. But it brings NatWest's American losses for the first nine months to \$305 million against \$252 million last year.

A Continental Bank made net profits of \$40 million in the first nine months, down from \$205 million a year ago, but this was all earned in the third quarter, the best in the past five quarters.

GA in £9.4m Norway deal

GENERAL Accident, the British insurance company, has acquired Aktiv Forsikring, a Norwegian insurance company, for Kr110 million (£9.4 million) in cash. The acquisition is conditional on approval by Norwegian regulatory authorities. The deal represents another step in the concentration process, mainly affecting small insurance companies, of the European insurance industry.

Cradley slips to £1.65m

A SQUEEZE in profit margins at Cradley Group Holdings, the West Midlands lithographic printing company, led to a decline in pre-tax profits from £1.87 million to £1.65 million in the year to end-June. Sales expanded 32 per cent from £17.2 million to £22.6 million. Earnings per share climbed from 3.7p to 3.8p. The dividend is maintained at 1p for the year. Shares firmed 1p to 21p.

Chillington slumps

CHILLINGTON Corporation, the diversified industrial, property and plantations group, is raising £4.9 million through an open offer of loan stock and has announced reduced interim profits. The funds will be used to reduce short-term borrowings and "to maintain the company's programme of long-term development of its overseas interests without being deflected by the short-term developments in the UK".

Pre-tax profits for the half-year to end-June were down 59 per cent to £1.19 million. The company said it remained confident of the long-term potential of its overseas plantations business. It intends to pay a final dividend of not less than 3p, making 5p (7p).

Tarmac issue a success

TARMAC has successfully issued \$300 million of auction market preferred shares in the largest issue of its kind by a British company. The proceeds will be used to repurchase preferred stock of Tarmac America, with the balance being used to reduce group borrowings. The preferred stock was issued in 1988 to finance the acquisition of 40 per cent of Lone Star Industries.

Scholl sells hosiery firms

SCHOLL is selling two hosiery businesses in a management buyout for £300,000. The companies, Amcor, in Holland, and Werner, in Germany, will go to Iplco Werner, a holding company, to be 80 per cent owned by Zwi Markuszower, Amcor's general manager. Amcor made pre-tax profits of £370,000 last year, while Werner made losses of £2 million.

لندن 19 أكتوبر 1990

Putting on the style for Major

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Markets are seldom benign when chancellors are due to speak, as the gnomes see such occasions as an opportunity to test their resolve and engage in a little harmless speculation. As John Major was putting the final touches to his Mansion House speech at tea-time yesterday, as the bankers and merchants were tying their little white bows, the forces at work in the markets dropped sterling below the DM2.95 level at which it entered the exchange-rate mechanism.

The emphasis potentially switched from keeping the lid on to defending the rate for the first time since sterling went into the mechanism two weeks ago. Those who said the problem would be keeping sterling down, because high interest rates and a parity protected within defined boundaries would be an unbeatable combination, rather than keeping it up, are less sure of their ground.

In part, this is because of the unappetising meal being cooked up by the latest run of statistics, in particular the latest earnings figures. Against this backdrop,

Mr Major was not kidding when he said last night that the days have gone when business could simply negotiate pay rises around the RPI and assume a falling exchange rate would keep them competitive.

He wants to see the "going rate" gone and made the welcome and sometimes overlooked point that restraint is as relevant to pay in the boardroom as on pay on the shopfloor.

Government claims that the underlying increase in average earnings has now stabilised at 10.25 per cent are only credible for those with exceedingly short memories. In June and July, the figure had stabilised at 10 per cent. Now the government has had to revise upwards that July figure to 10.25 per cent.

Whether August's similar figure will have to be revised upwards next month is to be awaited. If so, then perhaps we will be able to claim that earnings are stable at ever higher levels of

settlement. All this is merely statistical bantering. What is unavoidably clear is that earnings figures have been on a general upward trend for more than a year, precisely at a time when high interest rates were supposed to be bearing down on companies' ability to settle high pay claims.

Each month, the government has said they are too high. Each month they have gone up.

It may be that the pay settlements fuelling the earnings figures are now coming down. That is what the latest provisional figures from the CBI Databank indicate. It may be, too, that like the earnings figures, the CBI data really is provisional. With double-figure inflation and seri-

ous skill shortages, it may be that, despite increasing overall unemployment, the upward pressures on pay are at least as strong, if not stronger, than the downward pressures, even after ERM entry.

If that is the case, what can the government do? Answer: not much. Ministers may be right in believing that the bunching of settlements now will mean the pay pressure easing over the next few months and that, by the time of the next bunching in April when the public sector in the main settles, the economic climate – and especially the RPI figure – will be considerably better and will force pay deals down. But, in the meantime, despite ministerial advice to employers and employees to

settle lower or see job losses follow, the earnings figures look set to go marching on.

Polly Peck

Polly Peck's lenders should stop talking, get their act together and name a new chairman. News that shares in Noble Raredon were suspended show that the ripple effect is far from over. That Midland Bank, which is laying claim to every penny of Polly Peck money which passes through its accounts, pulled the rug from under the feet of Asil Nadir's sister proves the banks are not taking any chances.

Indeed, the word on the street is that the lenders' committee is seeking another merchant bank adviser to shore-up Chartered West LB which has been too close to the fracas to view it with cold precision any longer.

A new chairman must have a

good track record in a tight and be able to take on skittish lenders and shareholders without offence. Anthony "Cob" Stenham has turned the job down as have several others who have been quietly sounded out. No one can blame them.

They need to be able to work with Asil Nadir and if necessary to work without him if the Serious Fraud Office finds there is indeed fire accompanying the smoke.

Sitting calmly on the Standard Chartered board is Rudolph Agnew who has not been extended at all since leaving Consolidated Goldfields one year ago. Standard Chartered is one of PPI's biggest lenders in Britain and convened the meetings of lenders which resulted in the five-week standstill on debt repayments to give the company time to put its house in order.

What about Standard allowing Mr Agnew to stand aside as a director long enough to oversee the recovery of debts amounting to more than £1 billion and saving shareholders' funds of almost half that? Over to you, Rodney Galpin.

TEMPUS

Albert Fisher draws up its Christmas shopping list

JAMES GRAY



Fruits of success: Tony Miller, of Albert Fisher

ALBERT Fisher Group, the fruit and vegetable distributor, is likely to go shopping before Christmas, possibly for chunky groups.

The criteria set by Tony Miller, chairman, are that such acquisitions should not dilute earnings, nor should they ruin the progressive rate of growth which over the past five years has seen net earnings improve from 3.6p to 9.8p a share.

Pre-tax profits for the year ended August 31 at £74.4 million (£44.9 million) were achieved despite a £1 million charge for reorganisation costs, taken above the line, but with the help of £10.5 million generated in interest on last December's £180 million rights issue and placing exercise.

Pre-tax pro forma operating profits of £63.9 million, against £52.9 million, showing an underlying 21 per cent growth, follow further progress by fresh produce, food processing and distribution, and the American food services divisions. Overall margins rose from 5.4 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

Because of the depressed economic climate, there is no shortage of companies up for sale. Should the Del Monte fresh fruit division of troubled Polly Peck International become available, and because there is an auction currently running for the American group Dole Food, Albert Fisher might well be of even greater size a year from now.

After three years of capital expenditure of more than £20 million, this year's capex spend could ease to about the £17 million level.

Meanwhile, pre-tax profits look like challenging the £96 million mark, to put the shares at 112p on a prospective rating of 10.2, backed by a yield of 4.6 per cent.

The shares have been flat relative to the market over the past month, but 22 per cent ahead of the market over the year. Hold.

Chesterfield

THE property world is noted for its tendency to self-delusion. So it comes as a breath of

fresh air that Chesterfield Properties is telling the world to expect a lower value for its portfolio by the year end.

Market interpretations suggest this could translate from last year's 1.305p per share to about 1.075p, a fall of 17.5 per cent. The fact that the shares hardly flickered at 540p suggests that investors were not surprised by the warning. Chesterfield's mix of central

London offices and retail properties has performed strongly in the half year to end-June. Gross rentals rose 30 per cent to £13.6 million. A near £600,000 increase in income from other activities helped lift turnover from £12.7 million to £16.4 million.

Revenue profit before tax emerged at £7.84 million against £6.3 million, while earnings per share climbed

from 17.97p to 21.1p, a gain of 17.4 per cent. The interim dividend is 7p (6.5p).

Two developments, offices at Hounslow on the eastern edge of the City and a retail project in Rochdale, were mainly responsible for £7.9 million of capitalised interest. But at least Chesterfield's gross rent roll covers its interest payments, which is more than can be said for a number of property firms.

The shares, on a discount of 50 per cent to likely year-end asset value, look superficially attractive. But the bear market has further to run in property. Another year of shrinking assets is likely to follow, reducing the discount further.

French Connection

CITY pundits reading the advertising slogan "French Connection – clothes you can't wait to get into," recently might have added the rider "and shares you can't wait to get out of."

Over the last two years the USM-quoted firm's shares have fallen steadily from 125p to 32p.

But there are now signs that the fashion retailer may be starting to recover. In the six months to end-July, the pre-tax loss was £220,000, down from a loss of £248 million, and the interest charge has been reduced from £1.05 million to £738,000. Sales increased from £26.7 million to £28.7 million and the loss per share was 0.1p compared with a loss of 15.6p last time.

The interim dividend is 0.5p, unchanged on last time, and the directors have waived interim dividend payments to themselves of £112,000, having waived dividends of £330,000 last year.

Analysts expect the group to break even in the year to January after a pre-tax loss of £4.7 million last time. Profits should grow to about £1 million next year if Mr Shen's magic continues to work, putting the shares at 32p on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 4.85. It may not be too much longer before the shares begin to recover, even if it would be too much to expect any fireworks.

Call for modern ships provides ray of hope at Cammell Laird

AS THE worldwide search to find a buyer for the Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead goes under way, 2,100 workers with an axe hanging over their jobs have one crumb of comfort. Now may be the best time to buy a United Kingdom shipyard for 30 years or more.

World order books for ships are at their fullest for 13 years. According to Lloyd's Register, tonnage under construction in August was 39.9 million gross tonnes, up 46 per cent in just a year.

The upturn comes after a slump in the world shipbuilding industry which lasted for most of the Eighties.

The improvement does not reflect any increase in the demand for ship capacity. Instead, owners are replacing obsolete and inefficient ships with more modern vessels which pay for themselves through lower running costs.

Delivery times are lengthening, however, and according to some reports, the cost of a new ship has doubled in the past two years. Owners are becoming alarmed.

Faced with the risk that they may not be able to take delivery of new ships in time to cash in on improving charter rates, ship owners are taking an interest in acquiring their own construction yards.

Nowhere is the trend more obvious than in the United Kingdom. At the turn of the century, the UK built half of the world's ships. Last year, it accounted for just 0.77 per cent of world tonnage built.

Shipbuilding in the UK has experienced a long, agonising decline.

The dislocations became so acute that in July 1977, Sir Graham Day, then head of Cammell Laird, enthusiastically complied with govern-

ment instructions to nationalise the industry.

Upon formation, British Shipbuilders had 87,000 employees and comprised 35 companies, including some equipment suppliers. But the move was not a success. Over the past decade, its yards have been closed or returned to the private sector.

Today, there are 13 yards regularly building merchant ships in the UK. Only three build ships more than 120

metres long, and of those, two are foreign owned.

According to Nick Granger, director of the Ship Builders' and Ship Repairers' Association, the total value of ships built in the United Kingdom each year is £200 million to £250 million, equal to the turnover of a single middle-rank industrial company. He puts the total order book at just £500 million.

But in an industry with long lead times, today's snapshot can be deceptive.

The United Kingdom's biggest shipyard is Harland & Wolff at Belfast, which has been bought by employees backed by Fred Olsen, the Norwegian shipping businessman. He has supplied it with orders for a series of big tankers to equip his own fleet.

The next largest yard is Govan, on Clydeside, which is now controlled by the Kvaerner family, another group of Norwegian ship owners. It is building a series of

Merseyside, Scotland and North Devon, employ 150-400 people each, building coasters, harbour tugs and small ferries.

VSEL, which owns Cammell Laird, wanted to turn the yard over to merchant ship construction, but because it was designated a warship yard, access to the European Community support scheme was refused. The scheme provides a subsidy of up to 20 per cent of the cost of any ship built, provided no profit is made. Without its assistance, Cammell Laird could not compete for orders. The EC was more mindful of its desire to reduce capacity so that subsidy could be ended.

Yet the 140-acre Merseyside yard has the facilities to produce large ships of 150,000 tonnes under cover. Converted to merchant ship production, it would rank equal second by size with Kvaerner Govan.

With wage rates now 40 per

cent lower than Japan, the world leader, the United Kingdom should once more be a competitive place in which to build ships.

Mr Granger believes world demand could soon equal yard capacity, pushing up construction rates, obviating the need for subsidies, and making shipbuilding a profitable industry once more.

That is a prospect which gives hope to Hugh Tidbury, the merchant banker at Morgan Grenfell who is charged with finding a buyer for Cammell Laird.

He said: "Since 1984, there have been 20 British shipyards which have changed hands. There is a demand. And there is a general upturn in the merchant ship market. Prices are probably firmer now than they have been for many years."

He has drawn up a list of more than 60 companies that he will approach in his efforts to sell the yard. They include shipbuilders, ship owners, and industrial and engineering companies.

Already, more than half a dozen inquiries have been received at Morgan Grenfell or VSEL, Cammell Laird's parent company, at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

The last submarine under construction at the yard will not be launched until February 1992. Even if its fitting out was transferred to Barrow, it is hard to imagine that any buyer could take over earlier than that.

But by then, if industry pundits are correct, a shortage of shipyard capacity might make Cammell Laird an attractive asset.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Talk pays for Troubleshooter

ADAM Smith's law of supply and demand has proved true for Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former ICI chairman and one of Britain's most colourful businessmen. Harvey-Jones, who commands fees of up to £10,000 as a public speaker, claims that he is being offered such sums because he is trying to cut back on extraneous commitments. "If you don't want to do something the price goes up," says Harvey-Jones, aged 67, who has become something of a popular hero through his work on Troubleshooter, the BBC television series. "When I retired four years ago I wanted to spend a quarter of my time on education, a quarter on unpaid good work, a quarter on companies and a quarter on articles, books and television. The balance is the same, but I have become too widely spread." Harvey-Jones, a long-time supporter of Britain's entry to the European exchange-rate mechanism, fears that the timing of the move will hurt British industry. "It must have been a political rather than an economic thing, and we may be locked into an unduly high exchange rate. That worries me, since Britain has already lost too many of its manufacturing sectors." Harvey-Jones, who lives with his wife Betty in Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, hopes to finish his latest book before the end of the year and has yet to decide whether

or not to do another Trouble-shooter series. "I'm still talking with the BBC about it and it's something we'll decide early in the new year."

LATEST joke doing the rounds in the City: Knock, knock. Who's there? Charlie. Charlie what? Enough said.

Kleinwort jobs cut

THE 35 Kleinwort Benson employees made redundant yesterday comprised 13 Japanese warrant market-makers, nine UK equity market-makers – four from the smaller companies desk – five UK equity analysts and eight people from the firm's back office. "This is entirely unrelated to Premier Oil, it is simply a cutback because of the harsh climate out there," says spokesman Peter Churchill-Coleman. Kleinwort will continue to make markets in Japanese warrants from its Tokyo office. "We will retain a

smaller Japanese warrant market-making operation in London," Churchill-Coleman adds.

Robinson's reign

ANN Robinson, head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, has scored a double first in Brussels. She has become the first Briton and the first woman to chair the industry section of the economic and social committee of the European Community. "There is an enormous agenda covering everything from regulations on motor vehicle emissions to competition and anti-trust policy," says Robinson, aged 53, who expects to work closely with Sir Leon Brittan, the competition and financial services commissioner. "My job is to ensure fair play," she says. Formerly senior lecturer in politics at the University of Wales, Robinson has served on the EC's economic and social committee for the past four years, commuting between Belgium and London.

Hooke or by crook

ROBERT Hooke, head of Euro-equities at Banque Paribas Capital Markets, has run into difficulties with his bid to sail around the world single-handed. Hooke, aged 48, who set out from Newport, Rhode Island, last month on the first leg of the BOC round the world race, is stranded in the doldrums off the North African coast. "His steering column has broken," says an associate. But Hooke, a for-

mer American marine and naturalised Londoner, who owns the Alvin Sculpture Gallery in Grafton Street, has fared better than some others. Irish entrant Ender O'Coineen was forced to turn back 70 miles into the race after colliding with a fishing boat. Before this, O'Coineen, sponsored by Sunmoff, had started the race with a huge time penalty after his yacht was delivered to the start line two weeks late. The plucky Irishman has yet to throw in the towel; perhaps it will be a case of third time lucky.

Room for romance

YOUNG, eligible bachelors and spinsters in the Square Mile, searching for their ideal partners, should perhaps seek employment at Nomura Securities. So many employees at the firm's Tokyo headquarters marry one another that it has begun screening new staff to see whether they fit the bill. A spokesman admitted that about 70 per cent of newlyweds there married a workmate. Their London counterparts, meanwhile, are likely to be more concerned with lack of space. They are to move into the old Post Office building on St Martin's Le Grand at the end of the month. Their existing premises are so crowded that staff were told to keep two of the three main lifts free for clients and guests. Meanwhile, rumours that the firm is running charm courses for its employees are unfounded.

CAROL LEONARD



"Parrot-fashion"

Slump in flow of funds for investment

MANY of the woes of the stock market in the early summer, when prices fell on low turnover, appear to have been the result of a sharp drop in the flow of funds into institutions for investment.

The additional investment funds rose by only £4.8 billion in the second quarter, down from £8.4 billion in the first quarter and a quarterly average of £8.3 billion since the beginning of 1989, according to Bank of England figures.

Of this lower inflow, £2 billion was kept in cash or other short-term liquid assets, somewhat less than in the first quarter, so that only £2.9 billion was invested, against £5.6 billion in the first quarter.

Investment in British shares bore the brunt of the shortfall, plunging from £2.4 billion to £580 million, and the institutions were also net sellers of £400 million of gilt-edged, having been net buyers for the previous two quarters.

Investment in land and property in Britain also fell from £600 million to £230 million, the lowest for a year, but investment in foreign shares partly recovered, from £590 million to £1.2 billion, nearly half the level in previous quarters.

The sharp fall in the inflow of investment funds was mainly due to life insurance companies, whose total assets for investment rose by £2.5 billion, little more than half the rate in the first quarter.

This reflected a drop in business from the previous exceptionally high rates, plus the repayment of bank borrowings.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

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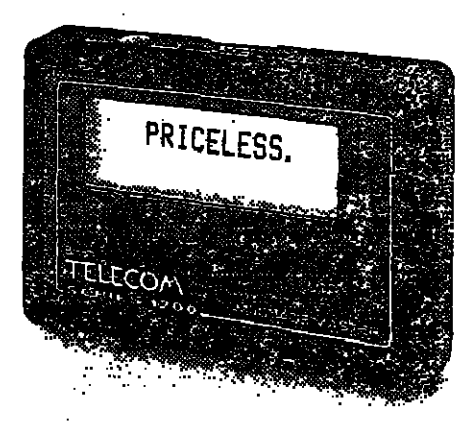
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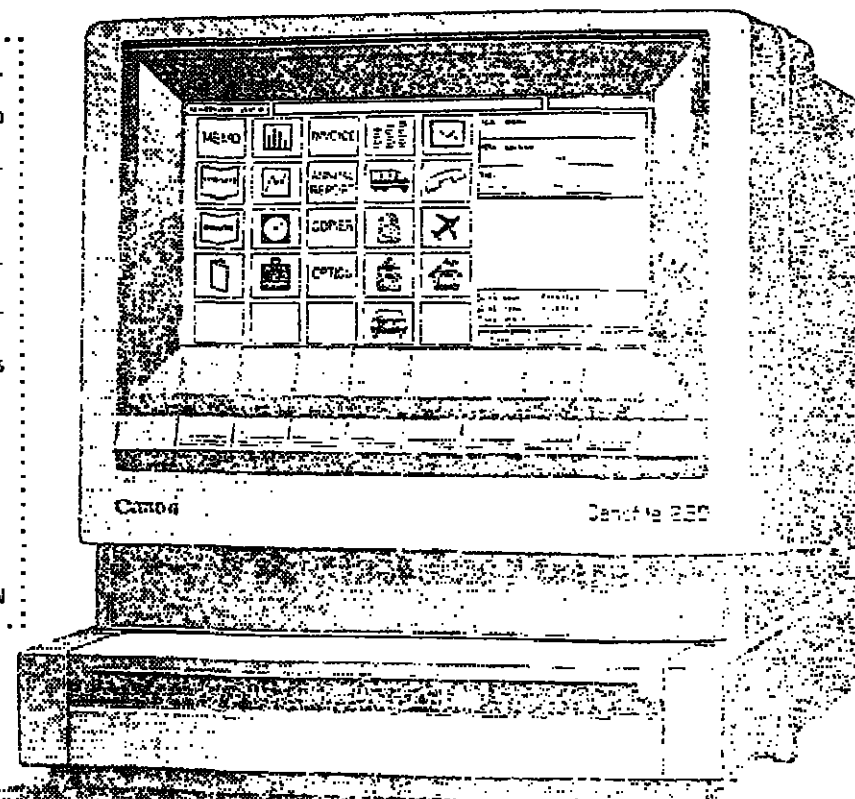
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UNLISTED SECURITIES

Country	Nov	Jan	Nov	Jan	Nov	Jan
England	121.22	102.00	121.22	102.00	121.22	102.00
Scotland	10.18	-0.29	10.18	-0.29	10.18	-0.29
Scotland	10.18	-0.29	10.18	-0.29	10.18	-0.29

BP to sell interests in New Zealand

By MARTIN BARROW

BP HAS agreed to sell its exploration and production interests in New Zealand to Fletcher Challenge, the industrial conglomerate, for NZ\$360 million (£110 million).

The interests include an 18.75 per cent stake in the offshore Maui field and a 37.5 per cent stake in the onshore Kapuni field, both of which produce gas and condensate for local consumption.

BP will retain some financing obligations for the Maui B platform now being installed. The sale does not affect BP's oil refining and marketing interests in New Zealand.

The company will also retain interests in forestry and chemicals.

The deal is the latest in a series of disposals which reflect BP's strategy of focusing on core interests and relinquishing assets which are considered non-strategic.

Fall for Amer

Amer, the diversified Finnish consumer goods group whose shares are listed in London and Helsinki, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from 160 million marks (£22.86 million) to FM66 million during the six months to the end of June on sales of FM4.02 billion (FM4.07 billion). Earnings fell from FM8.6 a share to FM3.5.

Forward Technology passes dividend

By PHILIP PANGALOS

FORWARD Technology Industries, the ultrasonic cleaning, video and audio duplication equipment maker, has passed its interim dividend after the company plunged into the red at the half-year stage.

The company reported a pre-tax loss of £11.13 million in the six months to end-June, compared with a profit of £925,000 last time. Turnover climbed from £17.8 million to £19.8 million.

Henry Prevezer, the chairman, said: "It now seems probable that video activity will not meet projections as customers' confidence in placing orders for the Christmas market has been eroded following receivership of Parkfield Group."

The electronics division made a trading loss of £538,000, against a profit of £1.1 million last time, on turnover increased from £12.9 million to £14.2 million.

Mr Prevezer said: "Since the onset of the Gulf crisis, there has been marked fall-off in demand in the electronics division as customers foresee a period of difficult trading."

He added that the sound and vision section showed a "healthy increase" in video activity, with volume ahead 65 per cent. But additional fixed costs to meet the anticipated increase in volume resulted in reduced margins. The division made a trading loss of £92,000, against profits of £147,000 previously, on turnover up from £4.97 million to £5.54 million.

However, it is feared that a massive stock overhang in the sound and vision division, where margins are already under pressure, could lead to losses of more than £1 million in the current year.

There is no interim dividend, against 0.6p last time. The board has "deferred consideration of a dividend until the full year's results are known".

There is a 2p loss per share, against earnings of 1.7p last time. Interest payments jumped from £169,000 to £302,000.

UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, has downgraded its pre-tax profits forecast from £2.75 million to £500,000 for the current year.

Shares in Forward Technology Industries fell 1p to 11p.

Cauldon to buy fasteners firm

By MARTIN BARROW

CAULDON Group, the tool-maker that was the subject of a reverse takeover by the privately owned Reece in April, is to buy an industrial fasteners distribution business from Wheway for £900,000. The company also proposes to change its name to Reece.

The acquisition is to be financed through a one-for-four rights issue of new shares at 11p a share, underwritten by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, to raise £2.4 million. The balance of the funds raised will be used to reduce borrowings and provide additional working capital.

The company is also selling its two loss-making nursing homes to Planning and Healthcare Consultants for £810,000 in cash. The nursing homes were bought by the former board of Cauldon in May and June last year for £1.3 million.

Cauldon has also announced the sale of Burslem Productions, another loss-making business, for £130,000.

Cauldon, which announced pre-tax losses of £138,000 for the six months to end-March, has changed its year-end from September to December and will report a second interim statement.

Shareholders were warned that the company would not be paying an interim dividend and that it was likely that only a nominal final dividend would be paid.

Li jailed for four years on bribe charges

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

RONALD LI, former chairman of the Hong Kong stock exchange, has been sentenced to four years' jail for two counts of bribery.

Li, aged 61, was also ordered to pay legal costs and to forfeit nearly HK\$900,000 profits he made on the corrupt share deals.

He was convicted of two charges of accepting preferential allocations of shares as the reward for supporting the listing of Cathay Pacific Airways and Novel Enterprises Limited in 1986 and 1987.

Li showed no emotion as the sentence was read out. His lawyers said they would appeal against the conviction and sentence.

John Lloyd-Eley, Li's counsel, asked the judge to consider Li's good character and his public services. Li's family had suffered a great deal since his arrest in 1988 because of the anxiety and the disgrace of the charges. The arrest also effectively ended his long career at the exchange.

Mr Lloyd-Eley added that neither the exchange nor any listed companies suffered as a result of Li's actions. Mr Justice Kemal Bokhaly said

the offences were very serious, as they involved corruption in a high place.

He said that because Li was a wealthy man, there was less excuse to engage in corrupt dealings but he was not imposing a heavy sentence, because of Li's good character and charitable work. The maximum penalty for charges under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance is seven years jail and a fine of HK\$500,000.

Mr David Mendick, the secretary for monetary affairs, said the government took the decision to prosecute Li because it did not want the security system to be seen to be abused.

Li still faces six charges of accepting advantages as an agent, along with Jeffrey Sun, former chief executive of the exchange, and five former vice-chairmen. The charges involved the listings of six Hong Kong companies.

Li's solicitor son, Alfred, is charged with two counts of aiding and abetting the seven in soliciting preferential allocations of shares.

They are all due to stand trial in Hong Kong's high court on February 25.



End of the road: Ronald Li on his way to prison

Production of cars for export up by 73%

By KEVIN EASON

MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

PRODUCTION of cars for export jumped by 73.1 per cent last month to underline the growing importance of overseas markets for British manufacturers.

Figures issued yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed that cars built for sale abroad increased to 36,765 from 21,242 in the same month of last year.

Production was also up by 8.6 per cent at 110,548 compared with the 101,817 total for September 1989.

Exports have been vital to helping car makers stave off the worst of the fall in demand in the home market, with sales running about 12 per cent below 1989's record totals.

Production of cars is down by 5.3 per cent in the first nine months, from 987,977 to 936,059. Exports have continued to rise, reaching more than 241,000 cars in the nine months, compared with 1989's total of 280,729.

The picture is not so bright for commercial vehicle manufacturers, with production in September down 20.1 per cent to 21,718. Exports were also 20.2 per cent down at 7,648, underlining the difficulties faced by the truck makers, hit by spending cuts.

Gerrard interim profits increase

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

GOOD positioning ahead of the announcement of Britain's entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism and the cut in interest rates has increased trading profits of Gerrard & National Holdings, the discount house group, at the start of the second half of its financial year.

There was mixed news for shareholders from the first half. Profits, which are not disclosed at the interim stage, were slightly higher in the six months to October 5 than a year earlier.

Gerrard has, however, been forced to make a further "significant" provision against its undisclosed inner reserves for the closure of its

small commercial banking operations. The group made an unquantified significant provision in its accounts for the year to April 5, but this proved insufficient because of the effect of the economic downturn on its loan portfolio.

Gerrard shares fell 7p to 278p. The interim dividend has been doubled to 6p per share to reduce the disparity between interim and final payment. The group paid 19p for 1989-1990 as a whole.

GNI, the group's futures and options broking subsidiary, has formed a new subsidiary in Frankfurt, to add to its operations in London, Chicago and, via a joint venture, in Paris.

Ocean Wilsons slides

By MARTIN WALLER

DRAMATIC changes in the Brazilian economy sent profits before tax from Ocean Wilsons, the investment group which owns a tugboat operation in Brazil, sliding from £6.53 million to £478,000 in the six months to end-June, although the half-way dividend is held at 0.5p. The group has also had to adjust sharply downwards profits already announced for the previous financial year.

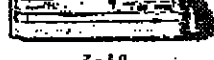
Operating profit from

Brazilian operations was just £256,000, down from £6.16 million, and the group blames the "Collor plan" which froze 80 per cent of bank and other deposits in March, resulting in lower interest income and the inability to remit dividends until the second half. The company says it failed to take full account of Brazil's 54 per cent inflation in December in its 1989 accounts, and pre-tax profits are restated from £13.7 million to £9.71 million.

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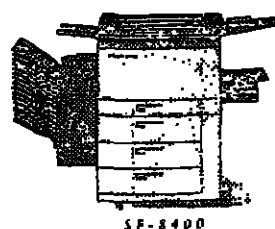


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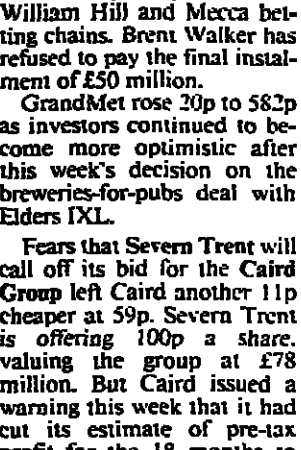
WALL STREET

Oil drop helps Dow

New York
SHARES rose in early trading, although blue chips slipped slightly from their opening levels. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 15 points to 2,402.87.

Analysts said the rise was helped by drop in crude oil prices because of Iraq's offer to sell its oil at \$21 a barrel. A firm bond market also boosted sentiment. Rising shares outnumbered falls by about three to one.

● **Frankfurt** — Shares ended 2 per cent higher in relatively thin trading. The Dax index ended 29.28 points higher at 1,470.07. (Reuters)

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Burl Ntn	25%	25%	K Mart	24%	23%	Stone Grtr	8%	8%
CAJ	5%	5%	Kellogg	66%	66%	Sun Co	28%	27%
Campbell Sp	49%	49%	Ken-McGee	45%	45%	Sunst Bk	19%	19%

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Dow Chem	41%	39%	Norton	90	90	Westg Elec	26	26%
Dow Jones	19%	19	Norwest	15%	15%	Weyerhae	18%	18
Dresser Ind	18%	17%	Nthn St Pwr	33%	33%	Whirlpool	18%	17%

Du Pont	31 st	31 st	Nitin Telecom	22 nd	22 nd	Whitman	18 th	18 th
Duke Pwr	30 th	30 th	NY Times	18 th	18 th	Winn-Dixie	56 th	58 th
Dun Bradstr	40 th	40 th	Nyx	69 th	71 st	Woolworth	25 th	24 th
East Kodak	38 th	37 th	Oracle Petri	21 st	20 th	Wingley	48 th	47 th
Eaton	42 nd	42 nd	Orap Eds	16 th	16 th	Wmner-Lamb	61 st	60 th
Emerson El	32 nd	32 nd	Oracle Sys	8 th	8 th	Xerox	31 st	30 th

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ATIVE CLAIMS BAR DATE
OF DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

for Finley, Kumble, Wagner, Heine, Underberg, Manley, Myerson &
the "Plan" and a Disclosure Statement (the "Disclosure Statement")
has established an Administrative Claims Bar Date, as defined below.

PARTNERSHIPS, CORPORATIONS, ESTATES, TRUSTS AND
PARTNERSHIP CLAIM" ARISING FINLEY, KUMBLE, WAGNER,
MANLEY, MYERSON & HEINE, UNDERBERG, FINLEY, KUMBLE, WAGNER,
ROOF OF ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM AS HEREINAFTER
DECEMBER 3, 1990 (THE "ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS BAR

on or before the Administrative Claims Bar Date SHALL FOREVER
CLAIM, asserting such Administrative Claim against the Debtor
and, receiving any distribution under any plan. Nevertheless, the
of any plan if the Court confirms the plan, except that, any entity

BY MAIL OR BY HAND DELIVERY TO, AND RECEIVED ON

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SINGS EVIDENCING THE AMOUNT AND/OR BASIS OF THE

of Administrative Claim, you may contact Paul M. Fried, an attorney
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New York, N.Y. upon the Trustee's motion for an order pursuant
to the Trustee's proposed Disclosure Statement with respect to the Plan.
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address indicated below and is available for copying and/or inspection
posed shall be in writing, shall set forth with particularity the grounds
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MOTORING

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

Nostalgia in the driving seat

Driving a classic car could save company executives tax and bring back a few motoring memories

High technology in 1955 was a Bakelite box housing the flickering black and white screen of early television. Britain's first nuclear submarine, launched and Flash Gordon thrilled children at Saturday morning cinemas with his adventures in his space rockets.

Bakelite was left behind, while Flash Gordon's mode of transport was clearly a bit of Hollywood jiggery-pokery, no more than a puppet on a string powered by a feeble firework.

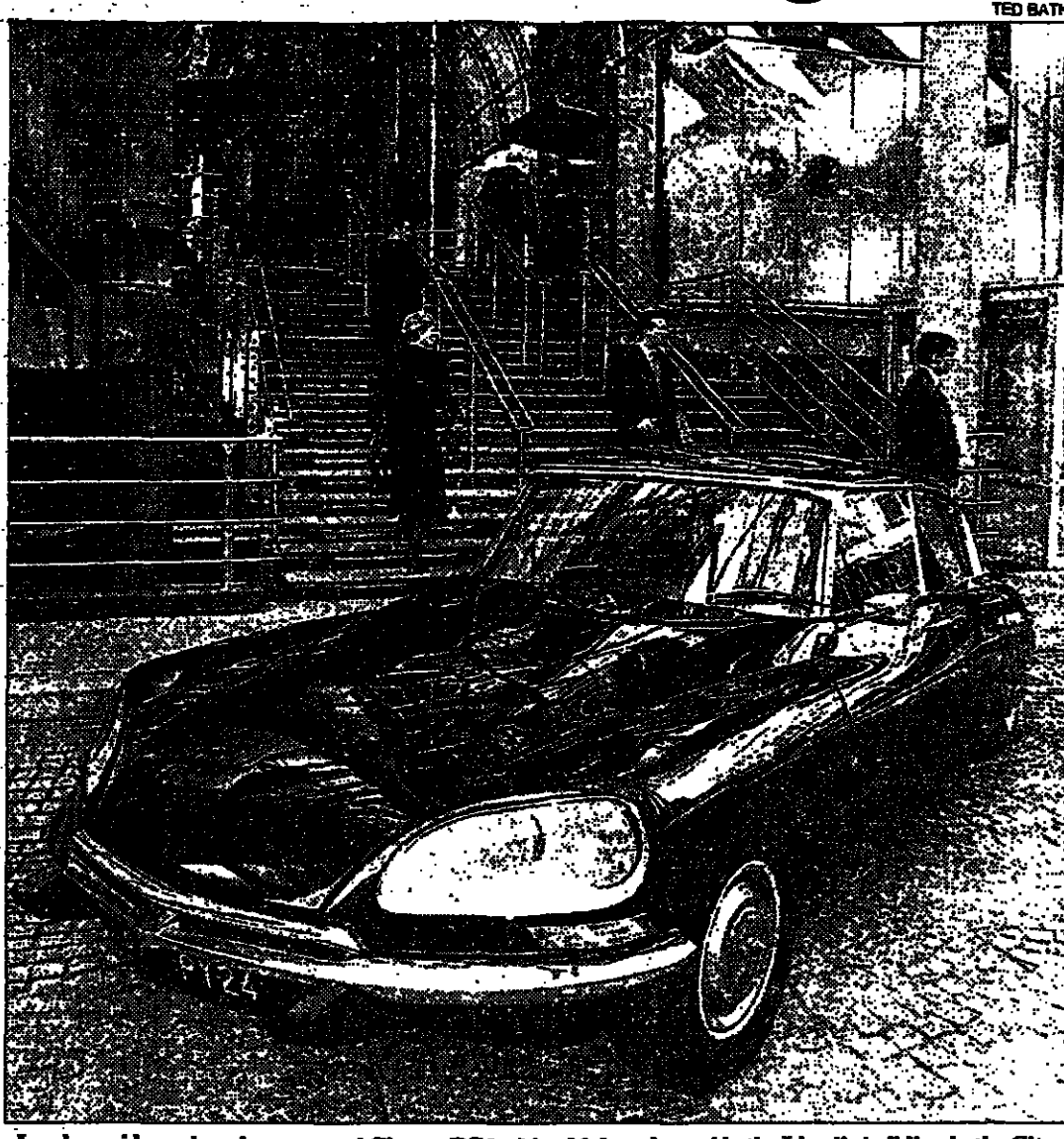
Citroën, however, provided the real thing that year: a car so adventurous in design and engineering that the rest of the world was still trying to copy its futuristic features decades later.

The Citroën DS started the motor industry when it was unveiled at the 1955 Paris Motor Show. Apart from its aerodynamic shape, it had power steering, power-operated disc brakes and revolutionary hydropneumatic suspension, starting a lineage of technology and design that led to the Citroën XM becoming last year's European Car of the Year.

Over 20 years, 1.4 million DS models were built, but remarkably, only about 127,000 found their way out of France. Most were used to pound the rural French countryside and cobbled city streets. The DS was a workhorse of immense abilities then, and, according to Mark Housden, could be a workhorse again as a company car for British businessmen.

Mr Housden, who used to run a design company, fell in love with the DS in France and decided to bring restored models to Britain. Driving a car at least 20 years old would fill most company drivers with fear. Most of us forget that compared with the modern car, the models we once cherished were a mixed bag of the unreliable and the uncomfortable. Not so the DS, with its wonderful suspension and upright, armchair-like seats.

Fully restored, with Connolly leather and English wool carpets, the DS could charm the most hard-hearted of company drivers. Mr Housden, a former BMW driver, is convinced that many motorists would happily exchange their company Fords and Vauxhalls for the quirky DS.



London pride: a gleaming, restored Citroën DS looking high-tech outside the Lloyd's building in the City

He says: "I became fed up with modern cars. All shops in the high street look alike and cars have gone the same way."

Running a classic car as a company vehicle is not so daft as it seems. A DS puts its driver into a lower personal tax bracket because it is more than four years old and costs less than the Inland Revenue's £19,250 tax cut-off point. A better option still might be leasing.

Classic Car Leasing (CCL), for example, can supply a range of cars from the Jaguar E-type to the Austin Healey 3000, fully restored and ready to drive. A fixed head E-type over two or more years from CCL would cost a returnable £5,000 deposit and £1,100 per month, although that monthly fee is tax deductible and covers everything but petrol. That frees the company driver from the massed ranks of lookalike cars, if he is content with the less predictable ways of a classic.

Mr Housden has one DS restoration a week carried out at a factory in Angoulême, in the southwest corner of France. The task is a complete refit, mainly of Seventies models, and includes extra sound-proofing, the fitting of a new laminated windscreen and two new wing mirrors.

Can the DS function as a day-to-day car? Mr Housden admits that would probably not be wise as the servicing interval for the 2.1-litre engine is every 3,000 miles. But an annual 10,000 miles is a reasonable limit. He has, however, disproved his own reservations by covering nearly 7,000 miles in his personal DS in three months.

Parts are readily available and most Citroën dealers are happy to carry out servicing work. Components for the first service, costing not much more than a normal company vehicle at about £100,

come supplied in the boot. Performance figures are 0 to 62mph in about 15 seconds with a top speed of 108mph. Fuel consumption is about 23 miles to the gallon of four star in town but lengthsens slightly to 30mpg cruising happily on motorways.

That leaves the prospective buyer to weigh up the price. Mr Housden says that £12,000 will buy a restored DS, complete with luxury furnishings.

The bonus is the joy of driving something quite different. The five-speed gear lever mounted on the steering column takes only a few minutes to master. The biggest disadvantage is that the vehicles are left-hand drive. But it requires just a little extra confidence before the pleasure seeps through.

DS purchase or lease from the Morton Stockwell Group, 250 King Street, Victoria Place, London W16 9JH. Classic Car Leasing, Blyth Wood, 20 Blyth Road, Bromley, Kent.

Smell of burning tyres and fivers

Every time a company car driver screeches away from the lights, he burns up another £5 note belonging to his employer. Fleet Management Services (FMS) calculates that tyre wear is one of the great unsung costs of running a company car fleet, hidden, perhaps, by rising fuel and servicing charges.

Few remember that tyre replacement can be expensive and that the cost, it seems, varies substantially from manufacturer to manufacturer. FMS's own check shows that the performance which is attracting so many drivers to Britain's most popular fleet car, the Vauxhall Cavalier, can lead to a penalty in extra tyre wear.

Derick Perkins, director of maintenance control for the Midlands company, warns that drivers may love the extra power of the Cavalier, but the trail of rubber they may leave behind costs the company operator money.

He says that in the category for small models, Vauxhalls — such as Astras and Novas — have the cheapest tyre costs, averaging 0.224p per mile up to 1.3 litres and 0.237p up to 1.6 litres. Most expensive in each category is Ford, which includes Fiestas and Escorts, at 0.284p up to 1.3 litres, and Rover, with its Metros and Rover 200s, at 0.327p in the range between 1.3 and 1.6 litres.

Vauxhall's position was re-

versed in the section for cars up to 2.0 litres. Cavaliers and Carillons averaged up to 0.554p per mile compared with 0.536p for Fords, which has Sierras and Granadas in that segment, and 0.345p for 2-litre Rover 800 models.

FMS decided to estimate the cost difference between running a fleet of 100 1.8-litre and 50 2.0-litre executive Fords and Vauxhalls. The result was a resounding saving with Ford cars.

Replacement tyres for that sample fleet clocking up more than 20,000 miles a year would work out at £29,460 compared with £46,800 for the same fleet of Vauxhalls. Mr Perkins says: "While Vauxhall has a very good range of vehicles, the torque or power output produced is greater for the higher engine capacity cars than it is for Ford or Rover."

"This is why the yuppie company car driver loves them. But then he presses the throttle of his Vauxhall 1.8 or 2.0 litre at traffic lights, or slams on the brakes to show off his emergency stop, he is costing his company a fortune in tyre replacement."

The warning from FMS is all the more pertinent given that the rules and regulations governing tyre tread depths will change from January 1, 1991. Then cars, light vans and trailers will be required to have a tread depth of 1.6mm instead of the current 1mm.

ROADWISE

Fuel for thought

Forget the worries over soaring petrol prices. German scientists believe they may have found the fuel of the future. Engineers at Volkswagen and VEB plan to develop engines which run on a blend of rape seed oil.

The German government is funding research, expected to cost £1 million, based on years of tests already carried out. Volkswagen, which has high hopes of the research, has worked on rape seed engines as one of its projects to find alternative engines that will reduce the need for petrol and lessen the impact on the environment.

VEBA says its oil development unit believes a mixture of rape seed oil and crude oil could be used in trucks, which would substantially help the economy in impoverished eastern Germany, where cheaper fuel is needed by farmers and haulage operators.

Unscrupulous American drivers, furious about petrol price rises, are rearing off forecourts without paying. This week's issue of *Autocar & Motor* magazine says that petrol companies are so fed up that they are considering imposing a pre-payment system which will operate before drivers reach the pumps.

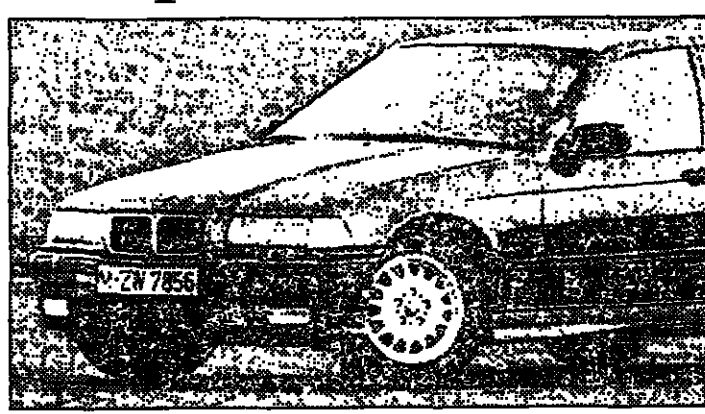
There are too many classic car shows, according to the MG Owners' Club. The club, which has 52,000 members, says that exhibition organizers are diluting the value of shows by stretching resources thinly. The club wants just two or three big shows annually at leading venues, such as the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

A good start for the Nissan Primera's sales assault on Europe. The car, built at Washington, Tyne and Wear, has been voted car of the year in Denmark by motoring writers. The Primera was 50 points clear of the Citroën XM.

Lancia is trying to dispel doubts over heavy depreciation costs of Italian-built models. The company says that a group of six Lancia saloons, with average mileage less than 10,000, retained an encouraging 70 per cent of their value at auction.

Being stranded on the roadside can be a worrying experience for drivers. The Royal Automobile Club is issuing a leaflet, "Safety tips for motorists at risk", intended particularly for women and the elderly, offering guidelines on what to do if the car breaks down.

Wraps off new BMW



Facelift: the new BMW 3-series, launched to fight challengers

IN SPITE of the longer, fatter look, the unmistakable grille shape of the car gives away the fact that this new model is a BMW. This is the first official picture of the new 3-series model, due in Britain next summer. And the picture confirms a more aggressive look for the car. The 3-series — a range which starts currently with a £12,500 1.6-litre up to the £28,000 M3 version — was the foundation of BMW's huge growth in Britain during the Eighties. Sales rose from 13,776 in 1982 to a peak of more than 29,000 last year. Prices are likely to be higher, from £14,000 to about £40,000, reflecting an expected nudge upmarket for the car, which is being robustly challenged for the high quality image by manufacturers such as Rover.

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There was no question in the present appeals that there was a law power to make the deportation orders. The adjudicator has no jurisdiction to enquire into the propriety of the secretary of state's decision: to allow immigration inspectors to take that decision to deport, nor had it jurisdiction to enquire into whether the decision had been taken by the immigration officers and not by the inspectors.

Those were matters relating to the exercise of the power, and not with the substance of the power, and were properly the subject of judicial review.

Lord Keith and Lord Brandon agreed, and Lord Templeman and Lord Ackner delivered concurring opinions.

Solicitors: Mr. Alison Stanley



are Louise Aitken-Walker, the highest ranked woman on the world circuit; Stig Blomqvist, the Mobil 1 champion; and Malcolm Wilson, Ford's British works driver.

RUGBY UNION

International Board to keep firm grip on commercial reins

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE relaxation of rugby union's amateur regulations will not mean an outbreak of rampant commercialism among the 16 teams who compete for the World Cup in Britain, Ireland and France next year. "We lay down the commercial parameters," Keith Rowlands, secretary to Rugby World Cup (RWC), said yesterday.

Rowlands, who is also secretary to the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) which last week decided that players could profit from such activities as advertising, endorsements and media work, was speaking at a Rugby Union Writers' Club lunch in London where the guests included Russ Thomas and Marcel Martin, two of the three directors of RWC Ltd.

During the inaugural World Cup in New Zealand and Australia in 1987, overseas teams were interested to find

New Zealand international advertising a variety of products on television and in magazines. Since then restrictions on players benefiting directly from such activities have been removed but Rowlands said: "No World Cup squad can sign a commercial agreement for its own promotion within the context of the tournament. They can only develop the commercial opportunities that we [RWC] release. Everything has to go through RWC who lay down the participation agreement which all competing teams must sign."

Clearly RWC can afford no contractual difficulties with the major tournament sponsors, though who they will be has yet to be announced. Thomas, chairman of RWC, declined to let speculation either about the likely money to be made or when sponsorship announcements would be

made. Alan Callan, RWC's commercial advisor, has projected eight major sponsors contributing £16 million for advertising rights but Martin, who oversees RWC's commercial arm based in Rotterdam, said that Callan's role was as a broker seeking to create a maximum figure. "Our role is not to announce figures we do not know we can achieve," he added, "although we would like to achieve Mr Callan's objective."

Whatever surplus accumulates from the 1991 tournament will be distributed according to the advice of a specially-established trust. After the completion of the tournament the first two World Cups will be analysed and it is unlikely that future tournaments will be distributed among several countries.

It is hoped that a decision can be made by the IRFB on the 1995 venue - for which South Africa, Canada, Argentina and Japan have applied - by the end of next year.

Next year's tournament includes major changes in the refereeing structure, in that the additional qualifying games required have given RWC the opportunity to assess the potential of officials from associate-member countries.

Over 30 extra international players have been played to produce the 16 finalists, of whom none are likely to play more games than Netherlands, handled by referees from all over the world.

"We have every intention of inviting referees from associate-member countries to the finals," Martin said. "Some of those we have seen have been good, some not so good but all have been watched by people who assess referees regularly."

"That assessment panel will remain in being during the 1991 tournament, so that the assignment of games will be done by a group known and accepted by the referees themselves. The best players deserve the best referees, though obviously the principle of neutrality will continue to be observed."

The decision by Martin Crowe, the New Zealand captain, to bat first after winning the toss backfired as none of the batsmen was able to negotiate the venomous pace of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed and Saleem Jaffer, who, as expected, was included in place of the off-spinner, Tauseef Ahmed.

That was the only change from the first Test, which New Zealand lost by an innings and 43 runs. Abdul Qadir, the leg spinner, was no less menacing as he will have no rest in the four balls at the end of the innings. He had Ian Smith and Danny Morrison caught at the wicket. New Zealand's batting, with

devoted entirely to it for eight months. Without the option of Channel 4, which is not in the interest of rugby football, ITV will have no rest in the programme. What is of interest is unquestionably the five international weekends with one or two items, such as the University match, thrown in. They could make a good case.

In Wales it is different. The Welsh Rugby Union could quite easily do without this *Rugby Special* provision within the international contract. They, unlike the others, are in a seller's market. Apart from special occasions (as in Scotland and three in Ireland when they can opt out) *Rugby Special* provides a blanket transmission centralised in London.

BBC Wales, on its channel, has always transmitted its own rugby programme on Sunday. *ITV* vision is satisfied at present by Sunday's *Rugby Special* on BBC2. It is not a provision that is happily accepted.

This programme has never fully recaptured the interest and following since it was decided to remove it from the early Saturday evening slot, where it began its long but, since then, always uncertain life. In the early days of the programme it captured its audience, at the club bar or at home, with its immediacy and sense of excitement.

There is no mass appeal in club rugby. At any rate, to be so placed was a luxury for the programme and, sure enough, chasing the early evening ratings at a time when BBC2 felt it necessary to go in search of large audiences ensured its removal from a prime slot. That golden moment in *Rugby Special*'s life has never been recaptured.

Since then, no one has been quite certain what to do with the programme as it has shifted, shifted and shifted.

It is international rugby that grabs the viewer by the collar and draws him near. At those moments, it inspires soap opera viewing figures. But at other times it is the case and it would be foolish to think otherwise.

The impression remains that the programme is accepted only in the sense of a loss leader to win the main prize. The rugby authorities know it. No other amateur sport can demand an hour-long weekly programme

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England depart for their antipodean cricket tour

Stewart at helm for another two years

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

SOME careers will be made and some marred by England's Ashes tour but Micky Stewart is no longer at risk. Stewart, who has been granted an extension of his contract with the Test and County Cricket Board, securing his job until the end of the 1992 English season, by which time he will be past his best, is ready to hand over to a younger man.

This move summarises the end of the speculation that Stewart, who began his management duties on the last full Australian tour four years ago, might soon give way to the former Essex and England captain, Keith Fletcher, who fulfils a similar role as England's team manager.

With the likelihood, antipodean disasters notwithstanding, that Graham Gooch will continue as captain in the foreseeable future, there was good reason to support a progression of his partnership with Fletcher, which has been productive at county level.

But it now seems that Fletcher is not the man for a job with the high public profile demanded of a team manager and that Stewart is far from keen to relinquish his post just when there are signs of a genuine revival in England's Test standing.

The way that Stewart approaches his job does not endear him to everyone, as two of his former captains, Chris Cowdrey and David Gower, would testify. His style has sometimes resembled that of a football manager and he has got along with the players who share his background and outlook, notably Mike Gatting and Gooch.

During Gatting's time as captain, Stewart had a tendency to align himself dangerously with his players and regard all criticism as unjustified. In some ways, however, this was due to the venomous pace of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed and Saleem Jaffer, who, as expected, was included in place of the off-spinner, Tauseef Ahmed.

That was the only change from the first Test, which New Zealand lost by an innings and 43 runs. Abdul Qadir, the leg spinner, was no less menacing as he will have no rest in the four balls at the end of the innings. He had Ian Smith and Danny Morrison caught at the wicket. New Zealand's batting, with

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Straight as a die: Malcolm makes Fraser ship-shape for England's photo-call

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YACHTING

Trying to improve chances of survival

By BARRY PICKTHALL

A STRONG line-up of sailing and medical experts take to the stage tomorrow at The Times Royal Ocean Racing Club Safety at Sea Conference in the search for improved man-overboard location and recovery systems.

The problems of saving life and stopping crew from falling overboard in the first place was highlighted only two weeks ago, when a crewman died amid a fleet of yachts in the Solent after falling through the lifelines on his own yacht during a gybing manoeuvre.

In another incident earlier this summer, a crewman was lost overboard at night from a yacht in the Bay of Biscay, despite taking the precaution of wearing a safety harness and clipping himself to a jack stay.

The harness design failed to restrain him against the force of water, and he was found the following morning, still buckled up and connected to the boat.

Among the panel, chaired by Alan Green, the race director of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC), is Dr Richard Kent, a survival expert who has led the research into several new location and recovery systems; Peter Blake, the highly experienced winner of last winter's Whitbread round the world race; and John Chittenden, the skipper of Creightons Naturally, who suffered the nightmare of recovering two of his crew in the Southern Ocean. Barry Green, Dorey, the lucky survivor from that incident, will also talk of his harrowing experience.

The conference takes place at the Bolderwood conference centre at Southampton University from 2pm to 5pm. Tickets priced at £6, which include safety papers, are available either from RORC or at the door.

French in tussle for record

THE two rival French solo yachtsmen, Alain Gautier and Philippe Jeantot, look ready to crack the record for the first stage of the BOC single-handed round the world race by several days (Barry Pickthall writes).

Both skippers, now only 89 miles apart, were sprinting towards the South African finish last night at more than 12 knots and expect to reach Cape Town on Sunday or Monday.

John Martin, the third placed South African, who held a 60-mile lead last Friday, is trailing 216 miles astern.

LEADERS PROTESTANT (at 10.46 GMT on 18 October): 1. Generali Comptex (A. Gautier, Fr, 842 miles); 2. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,158); 3. Alfred Bank (J. Martin, SA, 1,229); 4. Groupe Suez (C. August, Fr, 1,229); 5. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 6. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 7. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 8. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 9. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 10. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 11. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 12. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 13. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 14. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 15. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 16. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 17. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 18. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 19. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 20. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 21. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 22. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 23. Breda Agip (P. Jeantot, Fr, 1,229); 24. Breda Agip (P. 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Success of attacking formula comes as a relief to Yorath

By CLIVE WHITE

IT MAY have taken Terry Yorath two years to win his first competitive match as manager of Wales, but it has taken him a lot less time than his predecessor to arrive at the conclusion that excellent though Ian Rush and Mark Hughes are as individual forwards, as a pair they are about as dangerous as Pinky and Perty.

Of course, Mike England did not have any options open to him that looked half as appealing as the prospect that next time they would click. The rise of Dean Saunders forced Yorath's hand. Since the team of Wales' resources could hardly afford to leave out a player of the calibre of Rush or Hughes, the only answer was to accommodate all three.

The idea, first experimented with unsuccessfully against Finland a year ago, was resurrected with more encouraging results against Denmark last month before coming blissfully (or should one say

blithely) to fruition in a stirring 3-1 defeat of Belgium in their European championship qualifier at the Arms Park on Wednesday night.

A goal apiece for the three players in question was visible proof of its success but just as importantly as the scoring was the increase in goal-scoring opportunities. That was due, in no small part, to the unselfishness of Saunders whose ability and accuracy greatly distinguished the Belgians, particularly on the flanks; and the return of Rush to his razor-sharp best.

When Rush came home from his sorry Juventus sojourn, all manner of physical ailments were blamed for his failure. Yorath believes the cause was deeper than that. Talking yesterday on the day when the Welsh could, for once, reflect with pride in their performance, Yorath said: "When Ian returned from Italy, he was not the same player. I don't think it was just fitness, it was attitude as well.

"On a smaller scale, the same thing happened to me when I went to Vancouver at the end of my English career. If things don't come off for you when you go a long way from home, it gets to you. Now he's got it all back."

Despite Hughes' experience as a midfielder player early in his Old Trafford career, his conversion to that of a supporting role to the other two is going to take time, particularly while he still plays in attack for Manchester United. But Yorath was encouraged by what he saw and Hughes' natural tenacity and independence does seem to lend itself better to a deeper role.

Yorath understands the psychology of players better than many managers, perhaps because he is young enough still to be able to associate with them. The abrasive Nicholas, another to reach back to the past on Wednesday for his form, is out of the same mould as Yorath. A committed Welshman, Nicholas is the player that Yorath would most like to see overhaul the record of 72 caps, held by Joey Jones.

Yorath admitted that Nicholas would have been one cap nearer to his target than 67 had he not chosen to omit the Chelsea captain in the previous international for purely provocative reasons.

Perhaps it was the atmospheric Arms Park which caused Wales to rediscover their identity. It was the first victory in the spiritual home of rugby union by a Welsh football team since the round ball first rolled across the hallowed turf in 1896. The shared tenacity, resumed against West Germany last year after an absence of 79 years, is one that Yorath would like to become permanent.

The four-man Uefa delegation, which attended the match on Wednesday, would have felt obliged to concur that it was a marvellous theatre for football, whatever the rules, reservations were expressed about its suitability as a venue for the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup, at least for this season.

The Football Association of Wales, which has applied to stage either final, will appoint next season if unsuccessful. The alternative stadiums are those of Feyenoord, St Etienne and Bari.

Settlement reached in dispute

By DENNIS SHAW

THE Football League management committee has admitted it was wrong in attempting to force Aston Villa to pay compensation for live screening of the Uefa Cup tie with Inter Milan next Wednesday.

Bill Fox, the League president, has conceded to Doug Ellis, the Aston Villa chairman, that a stipulation made eight days ago was outside the rules of the competition.

Villa will now keep the entire fee from ITV — in the region of £225,000 — any sales to foreign networks, and not meet the League's demand for a two-thirds share. Nine clubs staging Barclays League matches the same night will not receive compensation.

"Bill Fox and I have shaken hands on his agreement with me that they have no grounds within the rules of a Uefa competition to claim anything. It is our match and the TV rights are ours," Ellis said.

That admission by Fox, an adversary of Ellis's when the League presidency was decided, is an embarrassment for the management committee, which passed the resolution in the Villa chairman's absence.

"I do not regard this as a victory for Aston Villa but as a victory for common sense," Ellis said. The agreement arrived after a stormy conversation between Fox and Ellis, who was annoyed both by the decision and by the attempt to take a large share of Villa's fee.

Paul Goddard, who became Millwall's record signing when he joined them from Derby County for £800,000 last December, yesterday turned down a move to Birmingham after the club agreed a £50,000 fee, because he wants first-division football.

Harry Redknapp, the Bournemouth manager, who returned from his two years' exile in Italy during the World Cup finals, will now try to sign Goddard, aged 31, on loan.

Goddard has generated fees of £2.4m in the past ten years in his time with the club. Park Rangers to West Ham United, to Newcastle United, and then Derby and Millwall.

Mark Bright and John Salako have signed four-year contracts with Crystal Palace.

Dave Bassett has told the Wimbledon midfielder, John Gannon, that he can leave Bramall Lane.

Gannon, who joined Sheffield Wednesday last year, was unable to break into the side this season, and Bassett said he was making the player available for transfer, although he would be happy for him to stay.

Mike Hooper, the Liverpool reserve goalkeeper, looks set to remain on loan at Leicester City for the next season, with Magellan staying at Anfield in an exchange arrangement.

The Leicester manager, David Platt, said: "There are one or two details still to sort out but I don't see any problems, and I think everything should go through."

Powerboat record-breaker on Windermere

GERRY CROWTHER



Record breaker: Tony Williams has cause to smile after setting a new time in his class at the annual powerboat record attempts week on Lake Windermere

GOLF

Johnson is up to challenge US exercise their divine right

From JOHN HENNESSY IN CHRISTCHURCH

From PATRICIA DAVIES IN MADRID

ALICIA Dibos, Peru's only touring professional, hit a five-iron to 12 inches at the 11th hole in the first round of the Woolmark matchplay championship at Club de Campo, in Madrid, yesterday and Trish Johnson, her opponent, thought, "here we go again."

Johnson, leader of the order of merit, and the top seed, won the matchplay in 1987 but had not reached the second round since. She conceded Dibos's two at the 11th, the Peruvian's fifth birdie of the match, which put her one up. But it proved to be her last. Johnson had birdies at the 12th, 13th and 14th and went on to win by 2 and 1.

They had 11 birdies between them and Dibos, from territory now noted for its laments, seemed to be striking the ball with more confidence than she had in the past.

All five members of the Solheim Cup team — Johnson, Helen Alfordson, Dale Reid, Laura Davies and Alison Nicholas — won through.

Spain's top seed, Alicia Dibos, was the only one to break 100 in the first round. She was followed by Trish Johnson (101), Helen Alfordson (102), Dale Reid (103) and Alison Nicholas (104).

Johnson's round was a mix of birdies and bogeys. She started with a birdie at the 1st hole, followed by a bogey at the 2nd, a birdie at the 3rd, a bogey at the 4th, a birdie at the 5th, a bogey at the 6th, a birdie at the 7th, a bogey at the 8th, a birdie at the 9th, a bogey at the 10th, a birdie at the 11th, a bogey at the 12th, a birdie at the 13th, a bogey at the 14th, and a birdie at the 15th.

THE United States, as if by divine right, took first place on the first day of the women's world amateur championship at Ruskley yesterday. They had, after all, won this biennial tournament for the last 150 years. The 16th century carried her over par when a beautifully struck second kicked into a bunker and this time she could not get up and down from a difficult lie.

It would be kinder not to dwell upon the fortunes of her colleagues, except to say, in Houriha's case, that her iron shots to the greens failed her, and to allow Thomas to say, in her forthright way, that she had played "robustly". Even so, it was another unbroken streak to the tall hedges lining the 18th fairway, which demanded a penalty shot and denied her team a share of fourth place alongside New Zealand.

The individual leader is Annette Jansen, at 21 a surprise member of the German team. She admits that she has won nothing of note, except the qualifying tournament in Berlin which brought her to New Zealand's Garden City. At one point she was two under par, but the par-four 14th was out of range against the wind and, with the wind behind her at the next, her three iron was much too much.

14th: United States (V Goretzka 74, P Hurst 74, K Noble 77), 15th: Denmark (P Cartwright 74, K Noble 77), 16th: Germany (A Jansen 74, K Noble 77), 17th: New Zealand (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 18th: Australia (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 19th: Sweden (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 20th: Norway (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 21st: Finland (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 22nd: Czech Republic (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 23rd: Poland (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 24th: Slovakia (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 25th: Hungary (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 26th: Romania (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 27th: Bulgaria (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 28th: Greece (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 29th: Spain (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 30th: Portugal (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 31st: France (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 32nd: Italy (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 33rd: Netherlands (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 34th: Belgium (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 35th: Luxembourg (J Higgins 74, A Scott 78), 36th: Switzerland (J Higgins 74, A Scott 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England manager unlikely to make sweeping changes

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Taylor preferred yesterday to sidestep the criticism of his one controversial selection, that of Steve Bull in the forward line, of the England team that beat Poland 3-0, and to examine instead the defensive deficiencies. The England manager said that he was so disenchanted, that halfway through the European championship qualifying tie against Poland, he considered changing his defensive system. He was reluctant during the interval to harangue his players in only his second international, but he "let them know that they were not doing quite what we wanted them to". Before he could judge their response, Gary Lineker was injured and any thoughts of rearrangements had to be dismissed.

He noticed during the match against Hungary last month that his side was stretched over some 70 yards. He wanted the players to move up and down the pitch as a compact unit, measuring no more than 40 yards, but the instructions were evidently not fully heeded. "There was not much improvement," he said.

Although Taylor did not name the culprits, the blame lies with Paul Parker, Des

Group seven

RESULTS: Republic of Ireland 5, Turkey 0; England 2, Poland 0.
REMAINING FIXTURES: 1990: Nov 14: Republic of Ireland v England; Turkey v Poland, 1991: Mar 27: England v Republic of Ireland, April 17: Poland v Turkey, May 11: Turkey v England; Republic of Ireland v Poland, Oct 16: England v Turkey; Poland v Republic of Ireland, Nov 13: Poland v England; Turkey v Republic of Ireland.

Walker and Mark Wright. Instead of pushing forward in support of Paul Gascoigne and David Platt, who were out-numbered in midfield, they stayed back and gave themselves little choice but to distribute long and invariably wayward passes.

"I wanted them to step up and give our attackers as much opportunity as possible to display their abilities in the opposition's half," Taylor said. "We've got so much pace at the back that we can cover breaks and not many international sides look for the ball over the top anyway."

Although the sweeper system is preferred by the players and the benefits were vividly illustrated during the World Cup finals, Taylor indicated that he is not necessarily committed to retaining it. Yet it would be inadvisable to dispense with the play in the next match, in Dublin on November 14.

In spite of their unusually cultured performance against

Turkey on Wednesday afternoon, the Republic of Ireland will almost certainly resort to the long-ball tactic against England. The tie promises to resemble the ugly and undistinguished aerial skirmish which bemused viewers world-wide at the beginning of the World Cup.

It could be billed as a typically domestic fixture between Liverpool and Wimbledon (Taylor himself likened the Republic to the inhabitants of Plough Lane) and it is as well to consider Kenny Dalglish's strategy on such occasions. He plays with three central defenders and omits his less robust individuals such as Houghton and, significantly, Beardsley.

After his thrilling goal completed the 2-0 victory over Poland, it might have been assumed that Beardsley had done enough to regain his place. But England will not require so much subtlety next month and Bull may not yet be relegated to the substitutes' bench, where apparently he belongs.

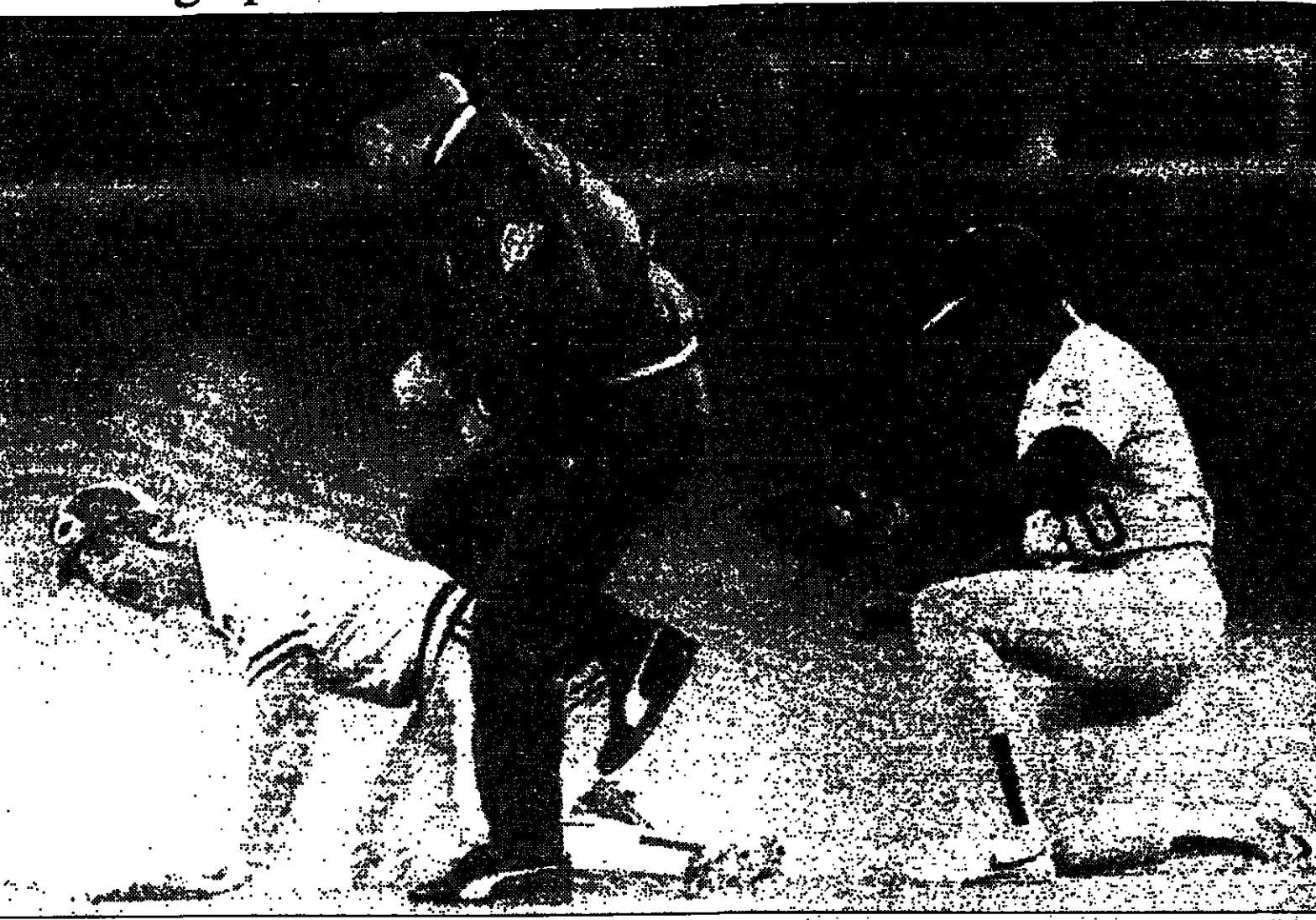
Taylor recalls that Bobby Charlton, Colin Bell, Mick Channon and Kevin Keegan, among others, did not feel comfortable in the national side until they had featured in a dozen games or so. Yet their qualities were unmistakable and were sure eventually to blossom. Bull has not yet produced convincing evidence that he will similarly develop.

Nevertheless, Taylor deflects even veiled misgivings about Bull's limited ability. When asked, for instance, whether he might on reflection have selected a different strike-force against the Poles, he replied without hesitation: "If we were playing the game again tomorrow, I might not start with the same defence."

He may choose to make one change. Assuming that Walker will mark Aldridge in Dublin, it would be ludicrously optimistic to expect the diminutive Parker to counter the threat of either Quinn or Cascarino in the air. Wright and Parker may therefore swap roles, or Adams or Pallister could be brought in.

There is otherwise no urgent need to alter the side which will again be led by Lineker. Taylor's first genuine experiments are likely to take place against African opponents. Before the game against Cameroon at Wembley in February, a B international will probably be staged on December 12. The hosts have yet to be confirmed, but they are expected to be either Algeria or Morocco.

Kicking up the dust in a World Series of continued upset



Cry of anguish: Chris Sabo, of the Cincinnati Reds, lets out a scream as he is called out at second base by umpire, Ted Hendry, while trying to stretch a single into a double in the sixth inning of the second game of the World Series in Cincinnati. The Reds beat the Oakland A's 5-4. Report on page 36

Zarei sets pace to tear up all records

By ROBERT HOWARD

JAMES Zarei, aged 46, the Iranian-born ultra-distance runner living in London and running for Britain, is on his way to breaking British and world records in the NALGO six-day race at the Gateshead international stadium.

During the race, which began last Saturday and will finish at noon today, the runners have circled the 400-metre track day and night aiming to cover the greatest possible distance within six days.

They have been free to stop and eat or sleep whenever they wish, but Zarei was off the track for only 12 hours in the first five days and plans to continue running right through the last day. Averaging an astonishing 100 miles per day, he completed 511.6 miles in five days, which was enough to beat last year's winning distance of 510 miles, set by David Cooper.

Although he has run multi-day races all over the world, Zarei is competing in his first six-day event and as he has remorselessly pounded his way around the Gateshead track he has out-distanced a field of international runners drawn from 11 different countries, taking British records for four and five days in the process.

He has also been covering a greater distance each day and he has on any of the other five could put the world record within reach.

That is 635 miles set by Yiannis Kourous, of Greece, in New York in 1984. Since then only two other runners, both French, have passed the 600-mile mark.

Zarei is also aiming to beat the British record of 623.75 miles, set in a professional race at Madison Square Garden 102 years ago by George Littlewood.

In the late 19th century six-day races were popular attractions, drawing crowds in their thousands, but Littlewood set his record as interest declined. Between 1903 and 1983, the sport died out. With the recent revival, Kourous claimed the world record but until now Littlewood's British record had withstood the test of time.

DAVID HANDS on the administrators and intermediaries reading the fine print of rugby union's Regulation 4.

themselves with boots - even in the England dressing room.

"The RFU is looking at the implications of the IRFB regulation," was all that Michael Coley, the RFU's marketing manager, would permit himself to say. "Policy decisions to be taken following the change have to be discussed."

But the RFU's primary worry is that England players should not be seen to be "disadvantaged" in comparison with their overseas counterparts or it will nag the players as a dog worries a bone.

The RFU is also in a difficult position because, though its members played a leading role in the re-drafting of Regulation 4 in

Journeymen strike back

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN QUINTA DO LAGO

NICK Faldo and Severiano Ballesteros were yesterday given a blunt message by the rank and file professionals of the European Golf Tour. A meeting of competitors after the first round of the Portuguese Open at Quinta do Lago gave unanimous approval to the administration to draft new regulations designed to eliminate the practice of paying appearance-money.

Accordingly, Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, and the tournament committee, under the chairmanship of John O'Leary, will shortly outlaw the payment of appearance guarantees by sponsors and tournament promoters and are prepared to stop dealing with any sponsor that refuses to comply with the "no pay for play" dictum.

The move will immediately bring the Tour into conflict with Europe's leading golfers and their agents, and Ballesteros has already signalled his opposition to any attempt to curb this lucrative source of income. This season alone, he is believed to have received over £750,000 appearance-money from his 14 tournament appearances in Europe.

Faldo, whose own fee is reputed to match the £60,000

which the Spaniard receives, would suffer a similar loss of income. Others who will be affected are Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Ian Woosnam, Ronan Rafferty, and José María Olazábal.

Schofield and O'Leary regard the business of appearance-money paid simply to secure the presence of Europe's "magnificent seven" as an issue of morality and principle. "It has been an issue for ten years, but now the time is right to deal with the situation," O'Leary said.

"The membership are urging us to take action, our main tour sponsors, Volvo, are making a stand, and the national federations are in agreement," Schofield said.

"The majority of the sponsors have indicated they will go along with us. All bar two of the players I have spoken to on this matter say they will forego appearance fees if they can be sure others would not be getting them.

"There can be no half-way measures. It's all or nothing and we are prepared to go as far as removing a sponsor from the Tour if he continues to pay out money for appearance fees."

The administrators' first task will be to specifically define an appearance fee and then issue guidelines to all sponsors. Schofield believes

such a document can be ready by the end of this year.

"We don't want players being paid to go to the first team," he said, "but the only way ahead is to concentrate on those who pay out rather than those who negotiate for and receive the money."

"For a sponsor or promoter to pay £150,000 to secure players for his tournament is the unacceptable face of appearance-money. That will definitely not be allowed to continue."

"We have shown sponsors what is the acceptable face by introducing champions' challenges and shoot-outs, and we would accept corporate agreements such as that in which Bernhard Langer was paid by a British company, ICI, to play in the German Open. There, the prize-money was raised to £500,000 and Langer's business arrangement in no way affected the tournament or other players."

Significantly, none of the other six important figures in the European game appeared in that event in Düsseldorf after both the German federation and Volvo announced they had paid the £150,000 that had been paid out in appearance-money the previous year, at Frankfurt, into the prize-money pot.

Schofield believes there are enough would-be sponsors in the wings to fill any gaps left by those who reject the forth-

coming regulations, which will replace rule five of the Tour's standing instructions. That merely forbids a golfer to ask a sponsor for appearance money and does not prevent any agent seeking payment on his behalf or any tournament organiser offering an inducement.

He added: "It is bad enough when you get someone who says 'I won't play in your tournament because it is not good enough and does not carry enough prize-money. But for a golfer to say to a fellow professional that I am not playing alongside you unless I am paid is against the Bible."

One of the rank and file, Magnus Persson, of Sweden, took a three-shot lead despite finishing in near darkness after a freak rain storm caused a one-hour delay. He cut the 7,123-yard Kinn course down to size after shortening his irons by an inch, but it was his putter that wreaked havoc to produce nine birdies in a round of 64.

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (on and behind net): 64: M Persson (Swe), 67: S Richardson (G), 68: M Selberg (Swe), 69: M Jones, G Turner, A Smith (W), F Harrison (S), 70: M Money, M McLean, J Haegmann (S), F Nobbs (W), 71: D R Jones, M Ross, C Montgomerie, S Ogle (Aus), P Hetherington (Aus), J Hawksworth, D Smyth, P Broadhurst, M Handwood (Aus), 72: R McFarlane, D A Stewart, S Threling (Den), P Tervahauta (Fin), J Spence (S), 73: C O'Connor Jr, 74: P Carraig, M Coetzee (Swe), J O'Hara (S), 75: M Coetzee (Swe), 76: M Coetzee (Swe), 77: M Coetzee (Swe), 78: M Coetzee (Swe), 79: M Coetzee (Swe), 80: M Coetzee (Swe).

Browne to appear in court today

By RICHARD EVANS

A LAMBOURN trainer questioned by police over the doping of racehorses will appear before Doncaster magistrates this morning. Dermot Browne, aged 28, was charged with criminal offences last night but it is understood they do not relate to the doping of horses.

The former National Hunt amateur champion jockey was arrested in Lambourn on Wednesday and taken to Doncaster police station where he has been questioned by detectives.

The doping of Bravefoot and Norwich at Doncaster and Flying Diva at Yarmouth are now being linked together by South Yorkshire detectives.

Atkins calls for transfer levy

By JOHN GOODBODY

ROBERT Atkins, the Minister for Sport, yesterday said that he would like to see a levy on transfers in football to increase the amount of money needed to help build new stands and stadiums.

Atkins said he did not propose that there should be a tax, imposed by the government, but that the football authorities themselves should institute a levy, which could be used to carry out the recommendations of the report by Lord Justice Taylor into the Hillsborough disaster.

The Football Association and Football League are contemplating such a move but know that many clubs sell players to avoid making an even more serious financial loss than most of them already do.

Although the government

has cut the tax on football pools from 42.5 per cent to 40 per cent, so releasing £100 million over the next five years for ground improvements, and the Football Trust can give £70 million over the same period, it is believed that £300 million will be needed to make first and second division clubs all-seater by the year 1995.

Atkins, who was speaking at a sports writers' lunch sponsored by Evans, stressed that English football clubs were on trial in the European competitions after the five-year ban following the Heysel stadium disaster. "There will always be those quick to shout that our return was premature, if anything goes wrong. However, so far so good," he said.

Atkins added that he was particularly concerned at the

improvements in standards on and off the field.

Although he applauded the award of the fair play trophy to the England team in the World Cup, he lamented the statistics from the Lancashire FA, which recorded 3,000 sending-offs and more than 8,000 bookings last season. "This must be true of many county associations," he said.

The minister also said that he would be "taking up the torch" of Colin Moynihan, his predecessor, on countering drug abuse and would be scrutinising the enquiry by the Sports Council into drug abuse in weightlifting, which followed a series of articles in *The Times*.

He stated he was "wholly opposed" to the return of Ben Johnson to the Olympic Games.

James on a roll to success

STEVE James has enjoyed something of a renaissance in 1990 (Steve Acteson writes). After yesterday beating Kirk Stevens, by 5-2, to reach today's quarter-finals of the Rothmans snooker grand prix in Reading, he admitted that following his crushing first-round defeat by Alain Robidoux in this event a year ago, he considered retirement.

This unhappy mood prevailed until the new year when, after being reunited with his former manager and mentor, Ramsey McLellan, he won his first ranking event and rose from sixteenth to ninth in the rankings.

James made a powerful start yesterday, with breaks of 77, 90, and 50, to forge a 3-0 lead in only 44 minutes.

Middlemen move in on the amateurism debate

THE executive committee of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) meets today, one of its prime functions being to discuss the implications of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) decisions last Friday regarding amateurism. Since that meeting the RFU has been, for it, remarkably tight-lipped, which only reflects the difficulty of the problem facing it.

The IRFB decided that communication for reward could be permitted, but left the breadth of interpretation open to member unions. The most important embargo was upon players advertising or endorsing rugby products, so that they could not be seen to be taking money directly from the game; that ruling could effectively expunge a series of long-running advertisements in which international players are seen modelling (if that is the right word) shirts, or adorning

Edinburgh, its representatives voted (with Ireland, one of whose representatives, Sir Ewart Bell, chaired that working party) against the new proposal, a move which suggests amendments took place with which they were not in full accord.

Any recommendation from the executive committee will go before the RFU general committee meeting on November 2, a month before the new IRFB regulation comes into force. In that time it is not only rugby unions which will wish to study the precise wording of the new amateur Regulation 4 (which was not made public by the IRFB in Edinburgh last week).

The regulation will interest, too, those who would act for the players, the intermediaries, the agents for whom relaxation of the laws has opened new horizons. Most of those will be from outside the game but, in keeping with the times, rugby

union has fostered its own, too. Mark Hancock, the Richmond captain and former Cambridge University scrum half, is a partner in a sports management company formed nearly a year ago with precisely this month's events in mind.

It is Hancock's view that his company will offer a sympathetic understanding to players who believe they may have some commercial worth, but are uncertain how, or how far, they may exploit it. "Rather than being hit by a commercial agent who might take them for a ride and not have their best interests at heart, we feel we can tackle matters from within the game, as it were," Hancock said.

"Of course we have our own interests at heart but we also know the game, we know the players, we

know the ethos of the game. Anything that players do - and that depends on market conditions - has to fit in with their business and home schedules, and their training. That is not going to leave much time for commercial activities."

Hancock's two partners specialise in marketing and the law - including that relating to taxation - leaving the personal contacts to Hancock, who (as he will be recommending to players) retains his own business interests as a chartered surveyor.

"We are looking at the medium term," he said. "No one knows exactly what will happen and I do not think it is right to think that money will make players blind to everything else."

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